

GERMANY

Skinheads and the swastika

Modern Times, page 15



MONARCHY

Us or them: who owns the castle?

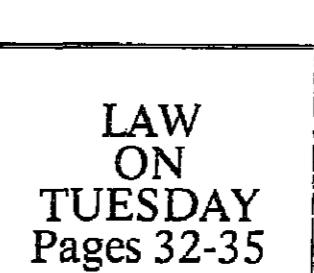
Janet Daley, page 16



MORALITY

Sex, love and the power of the Pope

Arts, Section 2, page 31



LAW

ON

TUESDAY

Pages 32-35

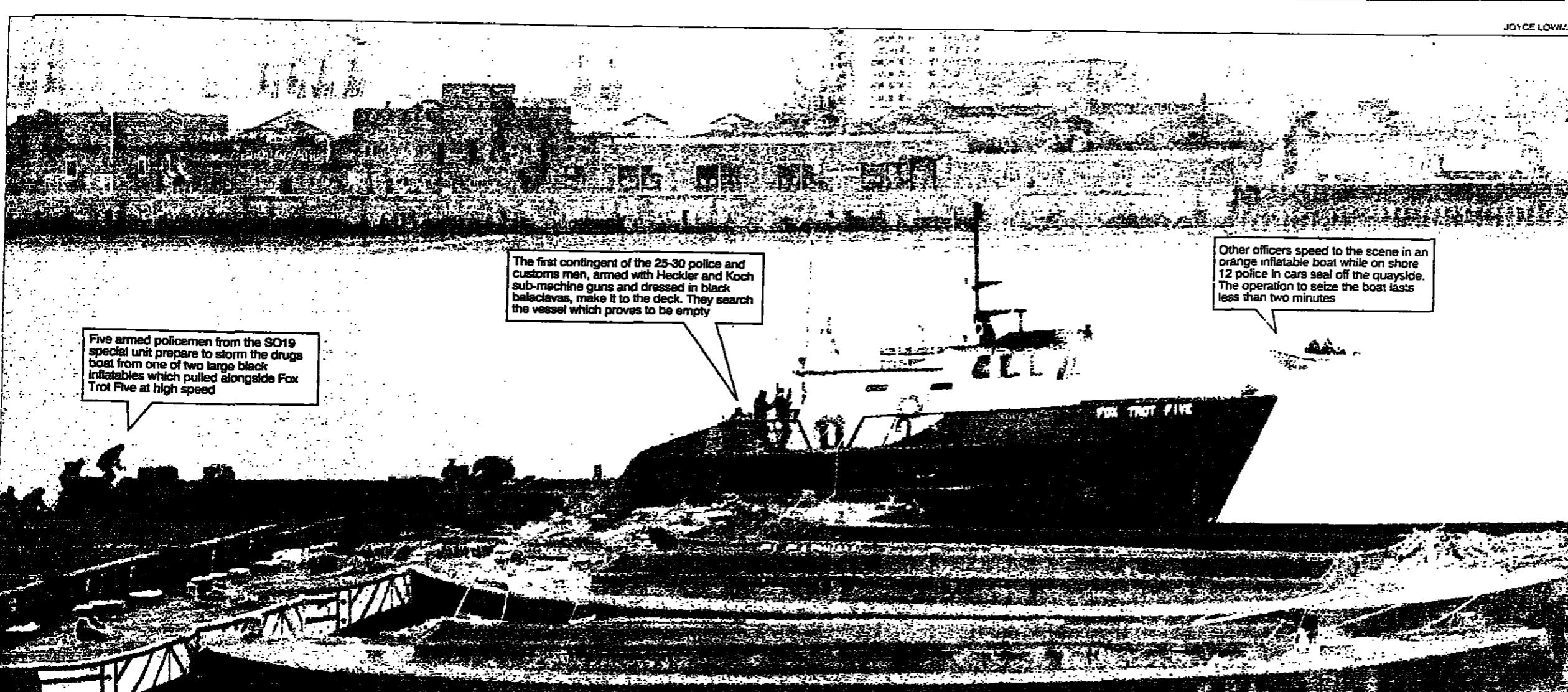
THE TIMES

No. 64,498

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1992

45p

Armed and masked, police storm Thames vessel in £160m cocaine hunt



Dawn raid on the Thames: how armed police and Customs officers, in the last stages of a carefully planned anti-drugs operation, swooped on the Panamanian-registered *Fox Trot Five*. They later seized a 1.1-tonne cargo of cocaine

Record haul in London drug raid

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES and Customs officers yesterday seized 1.1 tonnes of cocaine worth £160 million, the biggest drug haul ever made in Britain, after armed officers stormed an oil rig support vessel moored on the Thames a few miles downstream from Tower Bridge.

The seizure is both the biggest cocaine cargo ever found in Britain and the most valuable single cache to be uncovered. American and South American investigators have been warning for more than a year that Britain could be targeted by the Colombian drug cartels, and seizures of cocaine this year now far outstrip the 1.5 tonnes found in 1990.

Last night five Britons and a Spaniard were being questioned by Customs officers as forensic science experts worked on board the *Fox Trot Five*, registered in Panama, which was seized after mooring on pontoons at Hope Dock.

Continued on page 3, col 1

Floods of cocaine, page 3

EC proposes £50bn kickstart to recovery

By TOM WALKER
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

EUROPE needs to spend some £50 billion on big capital projects if it is to drag itself out of recession and overcome unemployment and social unrest. EC finance ministers were told yesterday.

The money should go on building communications and transport networks, and the Community should start the ball rolling by contributing nearly £5 billion to a special investment fund, Henning Christensen, the EC finance commissioner, told the meeting in Brussels.

Mr Christensen said the money would be borrowed on international markets and he hoped that it would encourage a similar contribution from private interests. Member states could then borrow from the fund to bolster their own spending on capital projects.

The strategy for co-ordinated growth throughout the Community will now be put to EC leaders at their summit in Edinburgh next month. But the scale of Mr Christensen's plans have taken Britain and Germany aback. Britain has indicated that it is in favour of promoting

ingrowth, but Downing Street emphasised that it would not back billions of pounds of infrastructure spending and a British official in Brussels accused Mr Christensen of coming out with "back of the envelope figures that seem a bit of a mixup". Horst Kohler of Germany told fellow finance ministers that short-term capital spending would inevitably weigh heavily on public sector borrowing requirements and push back even further the goal of a single currency.

But Mr Christensen countered that monetary union would be impossible without economic recovery and expansion. "We must send a positive signal to the international markets in Edinburgh," he said. "The summit will be important to kickstart the European economy."

He had the full backing of



Heseltine tells of 'conflicting' interests in arms-to-Iraq case

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ministers and officials had to weigh "conflicting interests" in changing circumstances in deciding how to interpret guidelines banning arms-related sales to Iraq, Michael Heseltine told MPs last night.

In what appeared to be a foretaste of the evidence to be given by the government to the Scott enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair, the president of the board of trade said that judgments had to be made about British jobs "in circumstances where other people in other nations were queuing up to fill those orders".

In a tense Commons debate, Robin Cook, the shadow

industry secretary, accused ministers of "stark naivety" in allowing the export of machine tools to equip Iraq. He said ministers had helped to arm a most brutal regime and added that it was contemptible for the government "to dump the blame" on Alan Clark, the former defence and trade and industry minister.

He said the most controversial decisions were taken after Mr Clark left the DTI in July 1989. "That is the real crime of Alan Clark to this government: not that he participated in secret meetings to export arms to Saddam, not that he misled parliament, but that he let the cat out of the bag."

Mr Heseltine was repeatedly

Iraq debate, page 6

Thousands in street protest over killings by neo-Nazis

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN AND ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

A DEMONSTRATION in Berlin to protest at the murder of three Turks — two women and a ten-year-old child — turned violent last night as stone-throwing left-wing youths clashed with riot police in the predominantly Turkish Kreuzberg district of the city.

In London, officials said that the government was "not particularly enamoured" of M Delors' plans for infrastructure spending. Britain instead wanted to see a Europe-wide version of Norman Lamont's Autumn Statement — a policy of protecting capital projects while keeping within budgetary constraints and controlling public borrowing.

Even before Mr Christensen unveiled his proposals, John Major had been concerned about M Delors' demands for a big increase in the Community budget and had wanted to keep all talk of Europe-wide spending off the Edinburgh agenda. Britain and other northern European

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Peter Riddell, page 2

Maastricht doubt, page 2

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Leading article, page 17

ist violence. The authorities in Molen have said that the Turkish family attacked were long-settled guest-workers, and that the girl killed was born in Germany.

The federal prosecutor, who has taken responsibility for the case from the state authorities, said that by accompanying

their calls to the police with the words "Heil Hitler", the attackers showed that "their act was aimed at the restoration of a National Socialist dictatorship".

Photograph, page 20
Drawing the line, page 15
Leading article, page 17



Government to fund Windsor restoration

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE government is to meet the cost of restoring Windsor Castle in the face of continuing pressure from some Labour MPs to force the Queen to contribute to a bill that is likely to come to tens of millions of pounds.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, told the Commons yesterday that resources would be provided to restore "this most precious and well-loved part of our national heritage", and that the fire-damaged section was essentially a public part of the castle and not the Queen's private apartments. The government has been responsible for the fabric of the world's largest and oldest continuous

Hunt for the cause, page 3

Janet Daley, page 16

Lynne Truss, page 16

Letters, page 17

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Flaming row: a farmer burning the Union Jack at Valenciennes in northern France yesterday in protest at the deal agreed between America and the EC last week

French pull back from a veto

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

AS French farmers staged angry protests against American interests yesterday, the Mitterrand government signalled that it would try to defuse an EC crisis over agricultural trade by playing for time and seeking compensation within the Community.

While President Mitterrand continued to withhold public comment on his country's isolated opposition to the Washington agreement, his ministers mixed tough rhetoric with suggestions of ways to avert a destructive French veto.

Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister, said France might ask its community partners to adjust the Common Agricultural Policy to benefit French farmers. He hoped this could be discussed at a meeting due to take place next week between Chancellor Kohl and Mitterrand. He also called for an agriculture ministers' gathering next week and said that in the meantime it would be a sign of weakness to brandish a veto.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the industry and foreign trade minister, said last night that France now had several weeks to convince its partners of the need to take its interests into account. Any thought of a veto was "very far away for us at the moment", he said. "We must manage to solve the problem before that."

Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, said France would vote on the farm agreement only when all other elements of a new Gatt deal on world trade were assembled. This could be after French parliamentary elections in March, by which time a government led by the conservative parties is expected to be in power.

Both these approaches could dilute the anger of the country's million farmers, a group with public sympathy and a record of violent insurrection.

While officials speculated on escape routes, however, the pressure for a rapid veto increased. In half a dozen actions around the country, farmers drove their tractors to town centres and, in one case, a Coca-Cola bottling plant, and burned tyres and other American products.

A farmers' leader said outside the Coca-Cola plant at Grigny, a southern Paris suburb: "We want to show the government that this is the start of a very long series of demonstrations which, if nothing happens, will be more and more violent."

Coca-Cola, like McDonald's and other American-owned firms, are pointing out that their French franchises are locally owned and sell French or European-grown products.

In Arles, farmers dumped tons of rice and at Limours, a dozen farmers attacked the house of Louis Mermaz, the former agriculture minister, and daubed it with insults. One farmers' union wants Mermaz to be put on trial for agreeing to reform of the Common Agricultural Policy earlier this year.

Hurd airs Maastricht doubt

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, disclosed yesterday that the bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty might need to be changed to bring in possible concessions to the Danes.

Under questioning by the Commons foreign affairs committee, Mr Hurd said that he did not foresee any change to the treaty, which has already been ratified by most European Community countries.

But, for the first time, he admitted that the bill, which starts its committee stage scrutiny in the Commons next week, might need to be amended before it receives

royal assent, to take account of Denmark's proposals. His surprise disclosure strengthens the case of the Euro-sceptics and the Labour leadership that the European Communities (Amendment) Bill should not go ahead until talks help Denmark to ratify the treaty.

The bill's third reading in the Commons has already been delayed until May, when the Danes might hold their second Maastricht referendum. At the committee hearing on the agenda for the Edinburgh summit, Mr Hurd said that ideas for allowing the Danes to ratify the treaty without amending it would be circulated in early December.

Sir John Stanley, Conservative MP for Tonbridge and Malling, said that this was the first time that ministers had mentioned possible amendments to the bill before the Commons to satisfy the Danes. Mr Hurd said: "I was trying to be very cautious and not exclude amendments to the bounds of the agreement.

French opposition to the Gatt compromise, if it continues, could put the German government in a difficult position. Germany's manufacturers are desperate for a world trade agreement and have become very critical of the French, as have many politicians of all parties in the Bundestag. On the other hand, a serious split with France would undermine the most important basis of German foreign policy and of the EC — a foundation that is more important than ever to the development of Europe had to be considered.

German farming could not follow the American technique of huge farms and "brutal exploitation of the soil", he said. Germany's agriculture minister, Ignaz Kiechle, has warned EC governments against pushing through the agreement in spite of French opposition, saying that the political consequences for the development of Europe had to be considered.

Although he agreed to the

demand, I would bet on ratification next year." Other priorities for the Edinburgh summit included the Gatt world trade negotiations, completing the single internal market, future financing, enlargement of the Community, and openness and subsidiarity.

Mr Hurd told MPs: "They are linked and, although the timetable at Edinburgh will be crowded, there is a general view in the Community that we must seek positive progress on all of them so that in 1993 we will know pretty precisely how we will take them forward."

Mr Hurd was repeatedly challenged about interference in nation states by the Commission. He appealed for objectivity about the change in attitudes in Brussels.

At a total of 75 pro-European Conservative backbench MPs joined forces last night to launch the Positive Europe group to counter the tactics of Euro-sceptics.

Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe, and the group's chairman, said: "The Eurosceptics have so far attracted disproportionate attention given that they are a small minority within the parliamentary party. We intend to correct this."

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German farmers denounce US pact

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN
AND CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

GERMANY'S farmers' association, yesterday denounced the trade deal between America and the EC, claiming that the US "had won all along the line". Germany has a large oilseed harvest, which will be cut under the agreement.

The association's president, Constantin Baron Herremann, said that it would consult French and other EC farmers' groups to see how it could oppose the agreement, but he ruled out "militant action".

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The trials and tribulations of a rational man

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

DOUGLAS Hurd is the epitome of the rational man confronting an irrational world — the man of office dedicated to keeping the show on the road whatever diversions there might be. At present, however, the disruptions are so many and varied that the direction has become obscure.

But yesterday, John Major, Norman Lamont and Mr Hurd tried to provide a lead ahead of the European heads of government summit in Edinburgh in mid-December. Mr Major started his pre-summit tour of European capitals, Mr Lamont offered British proposals for an EC recovery plan, and Mr Hurd answered questions on the EC for 90 minutes from the Commons foreign affairs committee, as "a flurry".

Mr Hurd's evidence underlined how bogged down the British presidency has become. The government's original priorities — completing the single market, finalising a Gatt trade deal, agreeing a timetable for enlargement, re-

solving difficulties over future financing, ratifying Maastricht plus putting substance into subsidiarity — were all sensible. But achieving each has now become harder.

The foreign secretary never refers to crises or admits that talks might have broken down. These words are not in his vocabulary. He prefers to avoid any hint of open conflict. Every obstacle must be surmounted or circumvented in a roundabout way. For him, strong words are best used in private, not in public. The most he will concede is that somebody or some situation is tiresome. He described the bitter public row three weeks ago when Ray MacSharry, the EC negotiator, resigned temporarily from the Commons, as "a flurry".

He did not want to consider the possibility that France might try to block Friday's farm deal with America. Any question of a veto did not arise at this stage; a final Gatt deal was still some weeks away. He described the bitter public row three weeks ago when Ray MacSharry, the EC negotiator, resigned temporarily from the Commons, as "a flurry".

Stripped of Mr Hurd's un-

derstandable suppositions, agreement at Edinburgh is still a long way away. Clever lawyers are trying to find ways of meeting the concerns of the Danes in a legally binding way without changing the treaty. The effort was Mr Hurd's, "condemned to succeed".

The Commission has produced ideas on subsidiarity to limit interference in national affairs, but these are not yet specific. In particular, a big gap remains over the future financing of the Community between northern European contributors and the mainly Mediterranean recipients. This links directly with the timing of the Community's enlargement.

Yesterday's British initiative on the EC recession — described in Whitehall with no hint of irony as a European version of the recent Autumn Statement — represents a marked change of approach.

It was primarily intended to head off calls for large-scale growth packages of the type suggested by Jacques Delors, president of the Commission. There will be no extra money from the EC budget, but rather expanded lending by the European Investment Bank.

The prospects for Europe are at present bleak. The exchange-rate mechanism is being pulled in every direction: economies are diverging rather than converging as recession deepens the EC has stepped up sanctions against Serbia and expanded humanitarian aid to parts of the former Yugoslavia, but has been unable to stop the killing: racial tensions and violence have increased sharply in many countries in face of a wave of new migrants and refugees; and economic difficulties have grown in central and eastern Europe.

No wonder that many Americans see a divided, inward-looking and short-sighted Europe unable to face up to the post-Cold war world on its

own. The British government cannot be blamed for all these difficulties. But Mr Major has suffered from his inability to see off his internal party critics over Maastricht.

The concession he had to make without consulting the Commons third reading until at least May and a second Danish referendum has compounded the impression of weakness created by stalling the exchange-rate mechanism. Mr Hurd was yesterday noticeably uneasy about the

recent French and German criticisms of the British presidency primarily reflected local political pressures. But Mr Major has lost the initiative and he and Mr Hurd will have to be remarkably persuasive, and have some overtime luck, if the Edinburgh summit is to be more than a face-saving exercise which at best avoids open splits and keeps Maastricht alive.

PETER RIDDELL

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MAASTRICHT

POLITICAL SKETCH

Trumpets sound to herald a burning issue

AS MPs do not know much, have no sense of priorities and a limited attention span, the chances of an issue reaching their notice which they understand, which is important and which interests them all at once, are statistically negligible.

First, yesterday, came a statement about Gatt: it was important, they didn't understand it and they weren't interested.

Last came the debate about Iraqi arms purchases: who knew what, when? It didn't matter: they didn't understand it but they were interested — intensely.

But the second issue scored best: The Royal Fire. It wasn't important but they did understand it and they were interested. Oh boy, were they interested!

Riveted, in fact. Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S) arrived early and sat motionless, arms akimbo, awaiting the statement with an expression of such profound personal concern that you might have thought it was his own kitchenette which had gone up in smoke.

It is unknown for any matter relating to ancient buildings, customs, castles, Canals and the residences of titled persons to come before the House without the arrival within seconds of Mr Cormack, puffing slightly and huffing mightily, to offer an expert opinion.

Such is his dedication to our national heritage that he might happily see all the unlisted parts of his Midlands constituency razed to the ground, if by this sacrifice he could save just one of Her Majesty's bathrooms.

Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, said that for France to invoke the Luxembourg compromise on grounds of vital national interest and to prevent a settlement covering 108 countries, would be "redundant" in present circumstances.

The next step would be for EC negotiators to reach a final Gatt agreement in Geneva. The package would then go before the European Council of Ministers and be decided by qualified majority voting. Britain hoped that could be done before the end of its EC presidency at the end of the year. Later, Whitehall sources did not rule out a decision at the Edinburgh summit.

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man and she was determined to impress. She had spent the entire weekend sowing up her response, which seemed to go on for hours. Would there be a public enquiry? Had Sir John Gardick's report been acted on? What were the fire drills? Could she have a copy with dates?

First, yesterday, came a statement about Gatt

Mob teams up with Colombian cartels

Mafia poised to flood European cities with cocaine, say police

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

AMERICAN and European anti-drug officials believe the Italian Mafia is shifting its drug operations from the heroin trade to cocaine smuggling routes between South America and Europe.

Investigators say the Mafia has forged an alliance with the Colombian cocaine cartels to supply an expanding European market, in return for assisting the Colombians to break into the New York heroin market and to help them launder drug profits. At the same time, the Mafia has reduced its own share of the US heroin market.

American anti-drug agents, who have spent years countering the spread of cocaine on their streets, say that Europe is in for a shock. They fear that seizures like that on the Thames yesterday could become far more common.

"I don't see how Europe is going to survive the Mafia-driven onslaught of cocaine," said Daniel Kingston, a special agent with the Miami FBI.

American officials say the US has been flooded with record amounts of cocaine. Seizures of cocaine in the southeast of the country so far this year total 124,591lb, almost double the figure for 1991. "The US is saturated with cocaine. You are going to see a vast amount being diverted to Europe," said Mr Kingston.

Plans for European economic unity mean that border controls will be removed between EC member states from next year. Experts say the Mafia is poised to exploit the opportunity to smuggle cocaine freely across Europe. "They are just sitting over there thinking about how much money they are going to make," said a foreign drug officer.

Recent investigations have revealed Mafia-linked cocaine smuggling networks operating between Colombia and Europe, often via Venezuela and the Caribbean. Most shipments arrive at Spanish ports, although some have been sent directly to Italy. Other cocaine shipments, not tied to the Mafia, have also landed in the UK.

Over the years, the Mafia has mastered the use of busi-

ness fronts in traditional Sicilian exports to launder drug profits. But experts say the Mafia is diversifying abroad, buying into casino and resort operations all over the Caribbean and in Spain. "Finally we are opening our eyes and we are able to see something that has existed for years," said

family from Sicily moved to Venezuela, where police say they bought their way into elite society and built a multi-million dollar empire laundering heroin proceeds for Italian Mafia groups back home.

Experts estimate that 75 per cent of all Colombian cocaine is exported through neighbouring Venezuela. US drug intelligence analysts say the Cuntrera family handles most of the cocaine now passing through the country. The family smuggled heroin into the UK until 1985, when the ring was broken by police in a sting operation that caught Francesco Di Carlo, the one-time Mafia boss in Britain.

Requests for their extradition were made in the US and Italy, where charges were brought against the Cuntreras by Giovanni Falcone, the crusading anti-Mafia judge who was blown up with his wife and bodyguards in May.

The Venezuelan government, after ignoring the requests for years, suddenly deported Pasquale, Paolo and Gaspare Cuntrera to Italy in September.

The first hard evidence of direct contact between the Sicilian Mafia and the Colombian cartels came in 1989 when FBI agents persuaded Mafia drug dealer Joseph Cuffaro to turn informant. Cuffaro confessed to having arranged a 1,300lb shipment of cocaine from Colombia to Sicily with John Galatolo, another Miami Mafia member who was arrested and sentenced to 45 years in jail in 1990.

"We think they made more than one shipment," said a drug officer involved in the Galatolo investigation. "We believe they were planning to turn Spain into a warehouse for distributing cocaine across Europe."

In January, seven Mafia figures involved with Galatolo will face trial in New York, including Joseph and Joe Gambino, who were arrested in Fort Lauderdale, near Miami, in September.

The Mafia's involvement in cocaine dates back to the 1970s when the Cuntrera

£160m haul in Thames raid

Continued from page 1
Anchor Lane in Charlton, south London, at dawn yesterday morning. About 20 other suspects were reported to have been questioned.

Other investigators were working at a warehouse in the Surrey Docks area where the cargo of drugs was driven by van. Police and customs officers broke into the warehouse by driving a mechanical digger at the doors and smashing them open.

The boat is the second vessel held in three days. On Friday, customs officers and the Special Boat Service boarded another ship in the North Sea and discovered about 30 tons of cannabis in an operation unconnected

with the London arrests. Yesterday, Det Chief Supt Derek Todd, deputy commander of the Number 9 regional crime squad, which launched the operation, said the cocaine seizure was the result of a six-month investigation which is part of a longer enquiry code-named operation Emerge. That is aimed at drug gangs in the south London criminal world and has already led to cannabis seizures.

Earlier this year, customs officers seized more than 900 kilograms of cocaine after it was landed in Britain.

Yesterday's operation began a month ago when the regional crime squad linked with customs' investigators after gaining intelligence on the

TODAY'S all-out strike on London Underground was called off yesterday by the Rail, Maritime and Transport union after 25 hours of talks at the conciliation service Acas.

RMT, the biggest underground union, had ordered an indefinite strike of its 11,000 members over plans to cut more than 5,000 jobs. Management had been preparing to run trains even if it proved impossible to collect fares.

With both sides claiming victory, the dispute over restructuring the service continues, and Jimmy Knapp, RMT's general secretary, said that there was every chance of unrest next year. The union executive was told that managers now accepted RMT's right to negotiate for members.

Rescue teams fear fishermen are dead

BY ROBIN YOUNG

RESCUE services seeking two missing fishermen, reduced their search last night after finding the wreckage of their boat 15 miles from their home port.

Rescuers said there was little hope for the two men who set out on Sunday night from Padstow, Cornwall, in a 14ft open dinghy for a night-time fishing trip to Doom Bar across the Camel estuary. The alarm was raised early on Monday morning, when they did not return.

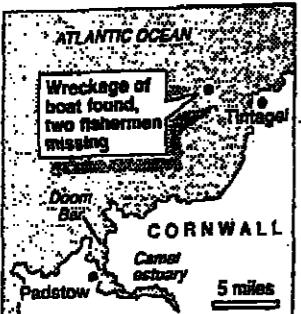
Their clinker-built wooden boat was powered by an outboard and is not thought to have carried flares or lifejackets. The two men have not yet been named.

Earlier yesterday, the Padstow lifeboat crew, which had been searching with the assistance of two helicopter crews, from RN Lifeboats in Cornwall and RAF Chivenor in Devon, recovered wreckage from their boat floating four miles off Tintagel, 15 miles along the coast. Force eight gales gave gusts up to 50mph in the area yesterday. There was a force six southwesterly on Sunday night.

Cliff rescue teams were last night continuing to search the shoreline. A fuller hunt for bodies will be resumed at low tide today.

The National Rivers Authority, which controls netting within estuaries, said yesterday that the two missing men were not thought to have been licensed and should therefore have had to cross the bar and go to sea to fish.

John Hinckiffe, the harbour-master at Padstow, said: "They are experienced local fishermen who know the estuary well."



Cannabis case PC found not guilty

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICEMAN accused of planting cannabis on a black lay preacher who later won damages of £100,000 was acquitted yesterday of conspiring to pervert the course of justice. An Old Bailey judge ruled that PC David Judd could no longer receive a fair trial.

Judge Tyer said his decision was made partly because of an article in *The Times* by Bernard Levin on October 22, which said: "Shouldn't crooked policemen be sent on some sort of course with such a title as 'How to Pick the Right Victim'?"

The judge said: "I am satisfied that the article, just a calendar month before this trial, is a matter which I can't in fairness ignore."

The prosecution then offered no evidence and PC Judd, of Ruislip, west London, was formally found not guilty.

After the case, Chief Supt Ken Dixico of Thames Valley police, who investigated the complaint against PC Judd, confirmed it was unlikely that the officer would face disciplinary action.

Windsor fire cause may stay a mystery

BY BILL FROST

FIRE chiefs yesterday said that the cause of last Friday's blaze at Windsor Castle may never be established.

David Harper, Berkshire's deputy fire and emergency planning officer, who was in charge of the operation, said: "It could be 48 hours or more before we know how the fire at Windsor Castle started. It is also possible the cause may never be pinpointed."

He dismissed as speculation suggestions that the fire had been started after inflammable liquid used to restore pictures in the Queen's private gallery had been ignited by a halogen lamp. Some newspaper reports yesterday said that white spirit was accidentally spilled onto a 250-watt bulb in the lamp, which had been brought in because the electricity had been cut off during rewiring. The liquid was said to have burst into flames that quickly spread to tapestries and curtains, then crossed along the ceiling to St George's Hall.

Mr Harper said: "These suggestions are pure speculation. But we cannot rule out any cause yet. However, a great deal of work is still to be done before we can say anything authoritative."

Asked to comment on the efficiency of the castle's own fire brigade, which has recently lost two tenders, Mr Harper said: "We are satisfied they gained entry to the affected area and started tackling the blaze. They were first on the scene and they did remarkably well."

Mr Harper said in his report to the heritage secretary that his men had responded to the emergency call from the castle on Friday morning within eight minutes. "An assessment had been made by the attending Berkshire firefighters and a request for further assistance was made by the officer-in-charge."

He went on: "The rapidity of the fire spread was being assisted by the complicated, combustible nature of the building, its contents and also by the large high-level ceiling void above St George's Hall."



Back at work: Viola Pemberton-Pigott, an art conservator reported to have been using white spirit

Brooke promises funds for castle

Continued from page 1

attraction outside London, with more than three million visitors a year passing through its gates to view, among its other attractions, the substantial part of the Royal Collection of paintings and works of art which was exhibited in the state apartments there until last week.

Buckingham Palace has already made it clear that restoration and repair of the contents of the fire-damaged apartments, being part of the Royal Collection, are the responsibility of the Queen, who funds the care of the world's leading assemblage of art in private hands from her own resources and from entrance money at Windsor and the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace.

She is expected to continue the arrangement and fund the cleaning of those works damaged in the blaze. But

such assurances have been insufficient for some backbench MPs, who continued to call yesterday for the Queen to pay a proportion of the cost of restoring the building, a project which some estimates have put at £60 million, but which Mr Brooke indicated yesterday could not at this stage have a figure of ultimate cost attached to it.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said during a heated Commons exchange yesterday that 90 per cent of the British public were against paying for the Windsor fire. He told William Waldegrave, MP, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, that the Queen should be made to pay. Mr Waldegrave retorted: "The level of your thoughts are about the same as the level of your actual language. The hearts of people in this country have gone out to the Queen over this tragedy." Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, told the House that Labour shared the "profound sense of loss" at the destruction of England's heritage, but regretted the failure of Mr Brooke to set up an enquiry into the cause of the fire and the lessons to be learned. There was legitimate public concern that the total cost of repair should not be paid exclusively by the taxpayer, she said.

Labour demands for the Queen to pay a share of the reconstruction costs came shortly before the release of an opinion poll last night suggesting that the royal family do not give value for money. In a Harris poll for ITN's *News At Ten*, only one in five of the 1,077 questioned thought the royal family represented good value for money. Some 76 per cent said ways should

be found of cutting costs, and 61 per cent thought public financing should be extended only to the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Prince of Wales.

Royal Berkshire fire brigade and palace officials yesterday dismissed as pure speculation reports in some newspapers that the fire had been started by Viola Pemberton-Pigott, an art conservator employed by the Royal Collection who had been working near the fire's assumed starting point in the private chapel. Fire officials said they had not yet reached a conclusion on the cause.

Miss Pemberton-Pigott, who has worked for the collection since 1981, was at work at Windsor yesterday but declined to comment.

Janet Daley, page 16
Lynne Truss, page 16
Letters, page 17

Tube strike called off after talks

BY IAN MURRAY

TODAY'S all-out strike on London Underground was called off yesterday by the Rail, Maritime and Transport union after 25 hours of talks at the conciliation service Acas.

RMT, the biggest underground union, had ordered an indefinite strike of its 11,000 members over plans to cut more than 5,000 jobs. Management had been preparing to run trains even if it proved impossible to collect fares.

With both sides claiming victory, the dispute over restructuring the service continues, and Jimmy Knapp, RMT's general secretary, said that there was every chance of unrest next year. The union executive was told that managers now accepted RMT's right to negotiate for members.



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Deadly danger of my little phoney

BY KATE ALDERSON

PARENTS who are tempted by the deepening recession to buy cheap imitations of well known toys for Christmas were warned yesterday that some fakes could be potentially dangerous. A number of toys were displayed by the Association of London Authorities to demonstrate the dangers and to alert consumers to recommended safety markings.

Conor McAuley, the association's environment spokesman said: "Parents need to be extra careful buying toys for the Christmas stocking. The temptation in a recession is to buy cheap imitations of popular toys, but these could cost more in the long term if children are hurt by them."

"Reputable toys are improving in quality and reputable traders recognise the importance of safety," he added. "But there still remain the fly-by-night merchants who have little regard for quality or safety. They should be avoided for toy purchases."

Parents were told to buy toys from reputable traders and avoid buying toys such as a dangerous version of a baton-like "groan stick" which makes a noise when

waved. The quality version had safety markings but the cheap imitation had loose parts that could fly off and take out a child's eye or choke an infant.

Other types of dangerous toys displayed included an egg with contents that could choke a child, a furry rabbit with loose eyes, a one-inch "gremlin" which expands on contact with water, and counterfeit My Little Pony or Magic Troll dolls with long synthetic hair.

Chris Armstrong, the association's standards adviser, said: "Expanding toys can be easily swallowed and then expand in the stomach causing a major blockage. They are very dangerous and not suitable for children of any age. A few years ago a child died after choking on a hairball caused by inhaling the long hair of a My Little Pony fake."

Key safety markings include BS 5665/EN 71, the CE mark and the Lion mark. If there is doubt about a particular toy, it can be reported to a local trading standards officer and if the goods do not comply with standards the sellers, distributors and manufacturers can be prosecuted.

Hair raising: children can choke on toys with long, synthetic hair, such as this fake Magic Troll

Religious conversion led to Sutcliffe's change of heart

Ripper confesses to two more attacks

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PETER Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, has confessed to two unsolved attacks committed during the period when he was preying on women in and around West Yorkshire in the late 1970s.

One on a 14-year-old girl at Silsden, near Keighley, in August 1975, was carried out two months before the first of his killings. His victim took two years to recover fully after her skull was shattered by a claw hammer. The other attack was on a young Irish student in Bradford.

Despite the admissions the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills QC, has decided it would not be in the public interest to bring charges. Sutcliffe, 46, is already serving 20 life sentences imposed at the Old Bailey in 1981 for 13 murders and seven attempted killings.

Until now, the former Bradford lorry driver has refused to accept the blame for any other attacks. His change of heart is thought to stem

from his recent religious conversion as a Jehovah's Witness. About six weeks ago, he agreed to see Keith Hellawell, an assistant chief constable with West Yorkshire police during the Ripper enquiry and now chief constable of Cleveland.

They have met several times since his conviction and Mr Hellawell has built up a bond of trust. When they met inside

happened. I had put it all behind me and got on with my life. I don't want to think about it any more."

The attack happened as she walked home from a disco to her family's remote moorland farm. Her mother Nora said: "The most vivid thing I remember was when she came through the front door. I thought someone had thrown a pot of red paint over her, but

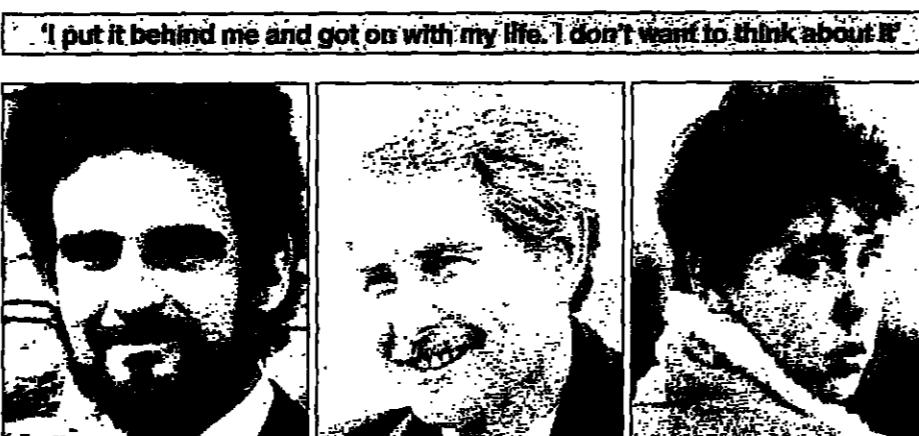
it wasn't, it was blood. It seems the Ripper had been disturbed as he was hitting her. They thought it was a claw hammer which was used."

"She suffered a fractured skull and there was a hole made in her skull." Surgeons had to perform an emergency operation to remove a sliver of bone from Miss Browne's brain.

Detectives had played her daughter a tape of a man who made calls claiming to be the killer, but she did not recognise him. It was later shown to be a hoax. She also helped to make a photofit picture that looked very like Sutcliffe.

After his arrest, police interviewed Sutcliffe about the attack but he refused to admit it, challenging the officers to prove it. "We felt frustrated at the time," Miss Browne said, "but we didn't think of taking any action. Our concern was for our daughter."

Her father Anthony, 68, said: "She has coped very well. There is nothing to show that she is any different than if this had not happened."



Barrister jailed for sex assault

A BARRISTER was jailed for two years by the Old Bailey yesterday for sexually assaulting his childminder under the influence of marijuana.

Christopher Wren, 39, attacked the woman, 30, after smoking the drug at his home in Blackheath, south London, on April 30.

Judge Charles QC told him: "You are a highly intelligent man. You have an excellent degree and you are well qualified. You are also well qualified to exercise restraint and responsibilities as a husband and father and an employer."

"You abused all those positions on this particular day with Miss X. You persisted in seeking sexual gratification contrary to her wish. You took advantage of her when she was employed in your home. She was entitled to expect protection from you, not violation."

"You showed no contrition at all, through your plea of not guilty, and made her relive her ghastly experience in the witness box. She has suffered nightmares and she feels she does not want another male person to touch her... This was behaviour that was totally unacceptable. I wish I could see some alternative to imprisonment, but there is none."

Wren, who had been called to the Bar but worked as a shipping consultant, looked stunned as the jury, after a three and a half hour retirement, found him guilty of indecent assault.

The jury heard how Wren attacked the woman in his study and pulled off her trousers while their two daughters played in the garden. The woman had been employed by the Wrens for a year. Wren told the jury: "We used to smoke grass together and we were very friendly. There was an obvious magnetism between us."

Child cruelty enquiry blames council

A report into the ill-treatment of autistic children in a home run by Lancashire County Council has criticised systematic cruelty and incompetence. Ronald Faux writes

caused, she said, by a combination of ill-treatment, inadequate supervision, the incompetence and insensitivity of some officers and failure to recognise the seriousness of children's concern.

Mrs Elliman accepted the findings of the investigation conducted by Janet Smith QC. She said: "I deeply regret the incidences of ill-treatment and the failure of officers of the authority to investigate parents' complaints in a thorough open way."

The report found that the adviser appointed to supervise Scotforth House had rarely visited the centre, did not observe teaching or meal times and did not meet staff or make any effective contribution to supervision. Primary responsibility for events at the centre from early 1987 to mid

1988 was that of Brenda Ford, the teacher in charge during her resignation in August 1988, but the failings of the advisory service had made an important contribution.

In September last year, Miss Ford was given an eight-month suspended sentence for cruelty at Preston Crown Court and two of her staff, Mary Miles and Maureen Robinson, were conditionally discharged after pleading guilty to one charge each of assaulting pupils. They have been suspended on full pay ever since.

Mrs Smith said the authority had been dilatory and inept in the way it handled the aftermath of the discovery that children had been ill-treated. The history of events is a catalogue of errors. From the initial failure to appreciate which were "less than honest".

Mrs Smith said that Andrew Collier, the council's chief education officer, was a very able man who had been let down by a number of much less competent subordinates. She said that when the errors were discovered, genuine efforts were made to put matters right and that since early 1991, the provision at Scotforth House had been excellent.

Mrs Smith said that Miss Ford's management style had been old-fashioned and authoritarian.

The atmosphere had been tense and uncomfortable, not conducive to reducing the confusion, isolation and unhappiness of autistic children. Meal times were particularly depressing and some children might be shouted at and have food forced into their mouths which were then clamped shut to make them swallow.

Downpours quench the drought

BY NIGEL HAWKES

STEADY rainfall over the past weeks has finally broken the drought over southern England. While nobody is willing to declare the drought over, the right kind of rain falling in the right places has begun to replenish underground water supplies.

Rivers are flowing, reservoirs filling up, and the soil, at this time last year, is now saturated. Only two areas are now subject to controls, according to the Water Services Association.

The Cambridge Water Company is still imposing a hosepipe ban on 250,000 customers, while Sutton Water Company in Surrey still bans 291,000 consumers from us-

ing sprinklers. Anglian Water and Southern Water, two of the companies worst affected by the drought, are encouraged. "The rain is starting to make an impact," Anglian said. "Now we would like to see it continue into spring."

Southern said that what happened for the rest of the winter was important if supplies were to be replenished. Meteorological Office figures show that rainfall has exceeded the 30-year average since September 1 over most of the country. In East Anglia, it is 152 per cent of average; in the South East, 107 per cent. "Rain has fallen where it's needed," the Water Services Association said. "What we

needed was a wet autumn and that's what we got."

The National Rivers Authority said that the soil was saturated, ground water levels were beginning to respond, and river flow was close to or above average. "To replenish the ground water is going to take more than one winter," a spokeswoman said. "We need two more winters before we can be sure."

The Met Office does not make its 30-day forecasts available, except to paying customers, but expects this week to continue wet, with rainfall heaviest tomorrow and on Thursday.

Forecast, page 20



STEPHEN MARKSON

Transplant patients share single liver

Surgeons split a single liver and transplanted the parts into a girl aged 3 and a man aged 25 yesterday. A medical team worked for 18 hours, shuttling between two hospitals, to perform the second dual operation of its kind in Britain.

The transplant surgery started on Sunday night when the liver was flown from Glasgow to Birmingham Children's Hospital. Both patients were close to death and the donor liver was the only one with the right tissue available. The girl, from the Midlands, was later said to be in stable condition in intensive care.

The operation on the man at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, was continuing last night. Transplant surgeons led by David Mayer and John Buckley used a technique performed only in emergencies, which has a 50 per cent success rate. If all goes well, the section of liver grows inside the patient's body.

Dr James Neuberger, consultant physician at the Queen Elizabeth liver unit, said last night: "We were forced into this because both patients were hours from death and we could not afford to wait for another suitable donor."

Accidents cut profits

British companies were warned yesterday that workplace accidents, in which nine people are killed and 400 badly injured every week, can cost them a third of their profits. The warnings were delivered at the launch of Workplace Health and Safety Week, in which it is hoped that at least 10 per cent of the workforce will be involved. Patrick McLoughlin, junior employment minister, said that apart from legal and moral arguments for preventing accidents, "most companies, even the best, suffer a real, continuous and hidden financial haemorrhage through accidents". Jim Hammer, chairman of the week's organising committee, said: "It is down to each individual to be more aware."

Chess team expelled

A team playing under the World Chess Federation flag has been expelled from an important championship for the first time in the history of the game. The ban came at the European team chess championship, which began at the weekend in Debrecen, Hungary, attended by a team of grandmasters from the former Yugoslavia. After protests about their presence and their desire to play as Yugoslavia, the team was allowed to compete under the federation flag an unprecedented decision. The team won its first round match against Czechoslovakia, but protests from competing teams before the second round yesterday led to the team being expelled and its score cancelled.

Damages reform urged

Fundamental changes to damages law, including a power for courts to order that accident victims receive compensation by instalments instead of in the traditional lump sum, are canvassed by the Law Commission in a working paper issued yesterday. The payment of damages by instalments, known as a structured settlement, is increasing and the paper, *Structured Settlements and Interim and Provisional Damages*, argues that "advantages clearly outweigh any disadvantages". It says that structured settlements, now entered into voluntarily by the victim and the defendant's insurer, can more effectively restore a victim to the position he would have been in but for an accident.

Ford strike vote agreed

Unions at the Ford Motor Company are to ballot all 25,000 manual workers for authority to call an all-out strike. The action is in response to the threat of the first compulsory redundancies at Ford for more than two decades and in protest at plans to reduce payments to workers who are laid off because of weak demand for cars. Shop stewards agreed to call a postal ballot for an all out strike, and action short of a strike, at a meeting in London yesterday. Jimmy Airlie, chief Ford negotiator of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said that Ford must be "insane" to seek a confrontation with the unions over job losses. "We hope at this late stage, Ford will see sense and agree to talks."

Unlawful killing verdict

Karie Rockliffe, a hairdresser, died from 27 wounds to her neck, chest and abdomen, some time after she was seen staggering drunk in a drunken state from a nightclub on June 6, an inquest was told yesterday. Friends told the jury at Basingstoke, Hampshire, that Miss Rockliffe, 18, had tried to re-establish a love affair with her boy friend Metin Mustapha, 19. He told Andrew Bradley, the coroner, that he saw her at the nightclub in Camberley, Surrey, that evening. He said he slipped away to avoid further contact. Det Chief Insp Andy Longman said extensive enquiries had been pursued and possible lines of enquiry remained. The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Lincoln text sets record

A paragraph written by Abraham Lincoln and taken from a speech he made in 1865 has broken the record for an American manuscript at \$1.37 million (£868,421). The concluding section from the president's inaugural address was written into the autograph album of a friend. It was bought at Christie's New York by the Los Angeles dealer Pronies in History. The manuscript has spent the past 40 years in a cabinet in a New York city apartment and was noticed by Christie's during the valuation of an estate.

Nissan wins award

Nissan Motor yesterday became the first Japanese company to win Europe's Car of the Year Award, capturing the 1993 title with its British-made Micra mini car. The Micra, which is built at Washington, Tyne and Wear, was selected by an international jury of journalists which considered safety, comfort, performance, technical innovation and pride competitiveness in reaching its decision. Fiat's Cinquecento was second and Renault's Safrane was third, followed by the Mazda Xedos, the Mazda 626, and the Toyota Carina.

Leading article, page 17

BERNARD Levin, moved by the fate of the 1980s pop duo Bros, drew the moral in yesterday's Times that "we live in the disposable era", and that pop singers had now become as throwaway as the soup carton.

If only it were true. In the early 1950s, when Mr Levin was the same age as Bros are now, popular singers had a very short time at the top. For example, Eve Boswell, the Hungarian singer, reached number nine in the charts in the last week of December 1955, with "Pickin' a Chicken", but was never to enter the charts again.

Similarly, Lita Rosa scored a great success with "How Much is That Doggy in the Window?", reaching Number One in March 1953. She achieved no further success until "Jimmy Unknown" scraped to Number 15 in March 1956 and then disappeared entirely.

And whatever became of The Big Ben Banjo Band, The Stargazers, Kitty Kallen and Perez Prado? Beside them, Bros have the permanence of Bach. The real sadness of today's pop stars is that, like swing

mers hogging the diving-board and refusing to leap, they stick around too long, much to the boredom of everyone else. Middle-aged gents such as Phil Collins, Elton John, Mick Jagger and Bob Dylan have shown that it is quite possible for pop star to be a viable career option, with career prospects substantially longer than one would enjoy in the armed services or as a news paper editor.

Cliff Richard has had ten hits in five separate decades. Alas, pop music's only justification lies in keeping up with unrelenting speed and disposability of fashion: the only sight greater than an impermanent pop star is that, like swing

stars.

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Heseltine fights back over Baghdad exports

Saddam armed at British expense, Cook tells MPs

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE government faced three charges over the arms-to-Iraq affair. Robin Cook told the Commons: It armed Saddam Hussein. It covered up that fact, and it was prepared to let three businessmen go to prison.

The shadow trade and industry secretary, opening a debate on a Labour motion, said that in the two years before the Gulf war the government had helped to equip the Iraqi war machine by providing hundreds of millions of pounds worth of machine tools straight to the munitions factories which made the weapons.

The question ministers never seemed to ask was why did Saddam want these sophisticated weapons in such vast quantities. They had shown "stark naivety". The machines were programmed to make fuses and shells and Matrix Churchill had tested them in Britain to see that they worked.

It now looked as if Britain would have to pick up part of the bill, because £830 million was still outstanding and export credit guarantees had been issued in respect of exports to Iraq. "We did not just arm his forces, we paid for them in the bargain," Mr Cook said.

If ministers argued that they needed the trade, at least that was a better defence than the contemptible one of blaming it all on Alan Clark, the former trade and industry minister, saying that they did not know what he was up to, that "he was sneaking in by the back door at night and taking decisions when the rest of them had gone home", Mr Cook said.

But Mr Clark left the trade and industry department in 1989 and the most controversial decisions were taken after he had left. Ministers were trying to blame the one man who had told the truth. He had let the cat out of the bag.

John Major's defence in all this was that he was simply not told. Had Mr Major now asked his officials why they did not tell him?

The Opposition had believed ministers when they had said that Britain would not export lethal or defence equipment to Iraq. They now knew that ministers knew that the machines were not general-purpose machine tools but equipment that would produce sophisticated weapons. There had been a

THE LABOUR MOTION

"This House notes the evidence that up to July 1990 the government was granting export licences for the supply to Iraq of defence equipment and munitions machines in clear breach of the Howe guidelines of 1985 preventing the export of equipment that would significantly enhance military capability; is concerned that as a result of the government's private change of policy, British servicemen may have been exposed to fire from shells and rockets made in munitions factories equipped by Britain; regrets that no statement was made in Parliament or in public about the

covert change in policy and that MPs were persistently misled by assurances that the guidelines were being observed and that Britain had not helped arm Saddam; deplores the willingness of the government to see citizens put on trial for exports at which ministers had connived and to put their liberty at risk by attempting to prevent the disclosure of documents crucial to their defence; and believes that the conduct of ministers in this matter has been inconsistent with the security of British troops, with open government, and with the just administration of legal process."

There were repeated discussions in Whitehall about the type of equipment that should be sold to Iraq, much of which had no military use at all. In a clear indication of the commercial considerations which weighed heavily with ministers at the time, he emphasised that there was "conflicting interest and changing circumstances".

At that stage, Iraq was receiving arms from all over the world, including Japan, the US, Germany, France and Switzerland and Mr Heseltine emphasised repeatedly that Britain faced intense commercial pressures. Some contracts were turned down "but what ministers had to weigh were often conflicting interests in changing circumstances. In interpreting policy guidelines, judgments had to be made about British contracts for British factories, offering British jobs in circumstances where other people in other nations were queuing up to fill those orders if we didn't."

Mr Heseltine was asked by Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, and a further three times by Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, whether he had known that the defendants in the Matrix Churchill trial were acting in accord with government policy and were providing "valuable information to the security forces". Mr Heseltine refused to be drawn on the issue, claiming that these were matters for the Scott enquiry to investigate. "I believe it is essential that Lord Justice Scott should look at these matters and that is the only way the allegations made can be adequately dealt with," Mr Heseltine said.

The only decision he could personally make, Mr Heseltine added, was whether the legal advice given to him by the Attorney General gave him any discretion in whether to sign public interest immunity papers blocking the use of official documents in the trial.

The board of trade president attempted to deflect Labour attacks on the government's handling of the affair, with sustained and angry denunciation of the "nauseating hypocrisy" of Mr Cook's allegations.

He was particularly critical of Mr Cook's comments quoted in newspaper reports yesterday that the outcome of the Scott enquiry "will depend on negotiations with Lord Justice Scott and the government". Mr Heseltine said Mr Cook had "smearred the judge of the court" with his "scandalous performance", but did not have the guts to withdraw the claim. Challenged twice by Mr Heseltine to withdraw the accusation, Mr Cook responded by asking the government to hold the enquiry in public if it truly believed it had nothing to hide.

Mr Cook's second act of hypocrisy, according to Mr Heseltine, was to suggest in allowing the machine tool exports to Iraq, "the government set out to endanger British servicemen". The last Labour government had not blocked arms exports to Argentina before the Falklands war, despite the Argentine government's poor human rights record. Mr Heseltine said.

clear breach of what the House had been assured.

The certificates of public interest immunity had been issued so that the contents of the documents they covered would not be disclosed. Mr Cook asked whether ministers could have persuaded themselves that they had acted honourably if the judge had not released the documents and the three businessmen had been jailed. "It is in the public interest for justice to be done, and justice would not have been done if these documents had not been released."

He concentrated his attack on Mr Cook's repeated references to a cabinet committee



Cook demanding answers from the government

'Slippery' answers attacked

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

PADDY Ashdown has accused the prime minister of "an appalling dereliction of his responsibility" in claiming ignorance of the changes made to official guidelines on arms-related exports to Iraq in 1988.

Mr Ashdown's strongly worded comments came in response to a letter from Mr Major. The Liberal Democrat leader had asked the prime minister to explain why the change in the guidelines had not been announced to Parliament. In his letter, Mr Major claimed that he was "not a party" to discussions on the so-called Howe guidelines, which were changed after the 1988 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, and "had no reason to know about them".

Mr Ashdown said the prime minister had failed to answer any of the questions he had asked about changes to the guidelines. "Instead he has fallen back on the oldest ministerial trick of answering a question I did not ask," Mr Ashdown said. "If the prime minister continues to respond



10 DOWNING STREET

I was not a party to those decisions and I had no reason to know about them'

in this slippery way, he will not regain the confidence of the British people – and he will not deserve it."

In the letter to Mr Ashdown, Mr Major wrote that "the many issues about the guidelines and their interpretation which have been raised can only be answered" by Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the circumstances of the Iraq exports. Mr Ashdown responded by claiming that the prime minister was "stone-walling" and sheltering behind the Scott enquiry, adding that this was "a disreputable position for British government."

Both main opposition parties have accused the prime

minister of misleading the Commons by failing to announce the change in policy. The original 1985 guidelines banned the sale of "lethal equipment" that could prolong the war between Iran and Iraq. Downing Street admitted last week that this policy was relaxed in December 1988, allowing British firms, including Matrix Churchill, to export munitions-making machine tools to Baghdad.

In his letter Mr Major said that leaked official documents show that "machine tools continued to be considered case by case and by reference to their assessed end use."

NEARLY 12,000 jobs have been lost in a wave of closures in Scotland in the past five months, according to figures produced by the Labour party yesterday.

Job losses north of the border, in large companies and small, were now running at the rate of 600 a week, the party said. The current total of 244,000 people unemployed in Scotland could rise to more than 300,000 with the future of the big Rosyth naval dockyard now in the balance, it said.

Labour's figures, which are based on surveys of redundancies reported by the national and regional press, were calculated by Henry McLeish, the

party's Scottish industry spokesman and MP for Central Fife.

Many of the 11,761 jobs lost in that period were in engineering, oil and construction. However, the survey also included the 3,500 redundancies announced on Thursday by the Royal Bank of Scotland, some of which will take place at branches in England.

The worst-hit areas were north-east Scotland and the central belt, according to Labour's figures.

Mr McLeish said: "Without a doubt there are thousands more employees who were informed in the past 24 months that they were the victims of government's economic policy and would soon be receiving their P45."

party's Scottish industry spokesman and MP for Central Fife.

One of the most contentious clauses of the asylum and immigration bill, covering compulsory fingerprinting of asylum seekers, may be amended. Charles Wardle, the Home Office minister, is considering concessions on fingerprint testing in response to demands from MPs of all parties.

Tony Blair, Labour's home affairs standing committee, have called for the rules to be eased for applicants under the age of 18.

Although Mr Wardle has ruled out the possibility of exempting minors, committee members have been encouraged by his assurance that he will consider a clause change to ensure that minors are accompanied by an independent adult when being tested.

Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, asked

for the amendment to apply to those under 18, although it is more likely that any alteration will cover those up to the age of 16.

The minister will also consider tightening up the wording of the bill on the categories of people allowed to conduct the tests. The wording may be amended to specify Home Office civil servants. The government sees fingerprinting as a key step in preventing asylum seekers making multiple applications.

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Anthony Scrivener QC, former chairman of the Bar Council, was one of those who gave evidence. He accused the government, through removing the right of appeal for some asylum seekers, of creating a unique situation in British law under which immigration officers' decisions could not be questioned. "I can't think of any judge in the country who has never had a successful appeal against a decision. Everyone makes mistakes."

Graham Allen, Labour's home affairs spokesman, who called the special meeting, said: "The government should have allowed the special standing committee to go ahead so we could concentrate on the important issues during the standing committee stage."



Scrivener: bill creates a "unique situation" in law

MPs hope for a rethink on asylum bill

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

ONE of the most contentious clauses of the asylum and immigration bill, covering compulsory fingerprinting of asylum seekers, may be amended. Charles Wardle, the Home Office minister, is considering concessions on fingerprint testing in response to demands from MPs of all parties.

Tony Blair, Labour's home affairs standing committee, have called for the rules to be eased for applicants under the age of 18.

Although Mr Wardle has ruled out the possibility of exempting minors, committee members have been encouraged by his assurance that he will consider a clause change to ensure that minors are accompanied by an independent adult when being tested.

Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, asked

for the amendment to apply to those under 18, although it is more likely that any alteration will cover those up to the age of 16.

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Allen: bill creates a "unique situation" in law

The government will be pressed today by John Greenway, Tory MP for Ryedale and chairman of the all-party insurance and financial services group, to help underwrite insurance for City buildings and businesses particularly at risk from terrorist attack.

Timetable

It will take about 53 months to build the Jubilee line extension to the London Underground once work starts, Steven Norris, London's transport minister, said in a written reply.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: defence, prime minister, debate on EC budget. Lords (2.30): European economic area bill, third reading. Sea fish (conservation) bill, report.



Lift-off: Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister, takes the controls of a ten-seater Cessna Caravan aircraft. Lady Chalker visited Stapleford aerodrome in Essex yesterday to name the aircraft Africa's Children. It will be used by Save the Children for famine relief in Somalia.

plane, which cost £320,000, was bought with the help of a legacy from Ailsa Jones, of Chichester, West Sussex, who died earlier this year, and by fund-raising in the Isle of Man. Britain has this year given more than £27 million for Somali famine relief, including £500,000 to Save the Children.

Civil servants face harsh realities of market place

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's privatisation programme entered a new phase yesterday with a pledge to transfer many traditional state activities to the private sector.

Foreshadowing a white paper tomorrow that will open up the jobs of some 40,000 civil servants to outside competition, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, said that ministers had embarked on a "long march" through Whitehall at cutting back the state to a much smaller core.

Increasingly, the government would withdraw from providing services to people. Instead, it would be a purchaser, buying services from the public and private sectors alike, which would no longer apply.

"We are initiating a new review of the activities of government to develop the successful privatisation programme of the last decade ... Ministers have decided that in

about the way it spends some £250 billion of taxpayers' money every year. Ministers are intent on building on the purchaser/provider split at the heart of the NHS reforms.

Tomorrow William Waldegrave, the public services minister, will flesh out the new approach by announcing a big expansion of contracting out of civil service jobs.

Yesterday, Mr Dorrell was careful to say that in the NHS managers would continue to be restricted to buying most of their care from the public sector. However, in other parts of the public services, such politically inspired curbs would no longer apply.

Mr Dorrell's remarks signalled an important shift in the government's thinking



Councils to set limits

Local authorities are to be given greater powers to impose speed limits. John MacGregor, the transport secretary, announced at question time. Councils will no longer have to apply to the secretary of state before imposing a limit.

New criteria will mean that councils will give more weight to environmental considerations and will not have to prove a poor accident record before imposing a limit.

BR delay

Government plans to award the first passenger franchise to a private sector rail operator by April 1994 are likely to be delayed by several months because of the pressure of parliamentary business. John MacGregor, the transport secretary, said yesterday. The bill paving the way for the breakup and sale of the rail network, which was due to go before the Commons later this month, will now be delayed until the new year.

MP ill

Tom Clarke, the shadow Scottish secretary, is to take a two-month break because of ill health. He has stepped down from his duties until mid-January to recuperate from a recurring viral infection. Mr Clarke's front-bench duties will be covered by Henry McLeish, shadow Scottish industry spokesman and MP for Fife Central.

City aid

The government will be pressed today by John Greenway, Tory MP for Ryedale and chairman of the all-party insurance and financial services group, to help underwrite insurance for City buildings and businesses particularly at risk from terrorist attack.

Scheme will be a success when television soap characters are itching to achieve an NVQ, says Shephard

Agenda set for training the nation

By NICHOLAS WATT

A MUDDLE is Gillian Shephard's description of the training and education system she inherited when she became employment secretary in April.

She agrees that the alphabet soup of acronyms for her department's training schemes is largely unknown. But she believes the government has now laid the right framework for creating a skills revolution to enable Britain to match its competitors.

She says she will measure her success by the number of characters in television soap opera's itching to achieve a National Vocational Qualification, the skills-based awards.

"Until you get someone in *EastEnders* wanting to get an NVQ and everyone who watches *EastEnders* understanding what it means, we shall not have succeeded," she said. "We have got to put a lot more effort into it." After Mrs Shephard had turned to a soap opera for inspiration, she was disconcerted to meet a senior businessman who had never heard of another of her pet projects, the Investors In People scheme that aims to have 6,000 companies training workforces by 1996.

"He has certainly heard of the scheme now. But I regard it as a failure on my part and my department's part that he hadn't heard of IIP. It should trip off his tongue."

Despite her admission, Mrs Shephard rejected TOC claims that few companies had signed up for IIP and that she would have to dilute her targets. "So far, 1,106 companies have signed up, 1,300



'Britain has a greater enthusiasm for training in the workplace than its main competitors'

Gillian Shephard

their been poorly advised by careers officers before leaving school at 16. A former careers officer herself, she agreed the present system was flawed and said that she was piloting the trade union and employment rights bill through the Commons to redress weaknesses.

Many people in the careers service want greater freedom to do more assessment when people are younger. We can't do that with the structure as it is," she said.

have agreed to achieve the standard and 2,000 to 3,000 are negotiating with the Training and Enterprise Councils to get the standards," she said. "If those 2,000 to 3,000 come on stream next year, we will be well on the way to achieving that target."

To people who scorn Britain's training and who idealise Germany and Japan, Mrs Shephard says that Britain has made great progress in the past five years.

She says it now does many things better than Germany. "There is a greater enthusiasm in this country for workplace training than in Germany or France and a greater acceptance that it is a good thing," she says. "In the last five years, we've got 2.5 million more people with A levels, we've also got 2 million more people in the workforce who are qualified at A level or above than five years ago. Something like three quarters of the workforce now has a qualification."

The right framework in education was at last in place. Mrs Shephard sympathised with young unemployed people who told *The Times* that they had



Career U-turn: Yolande Beaumont has gone from nursing to car assembly at Toyota, via training in Japan and the US

Firms pay millions to bridge skills gap

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE blonde head of Yolande Beaumont bobbed between oncoming cars as she wielded her electric screwdriver like a seasoned cowboy with a six-gun. Around her, veteran Japanese car workers nodded approval as she tackled half-completed Toyotas with relish and a huge grin.

Japanese training has turned Miss Beaumont from an NHS nurse into a leader of an elite band of workers who will start up car assembly lines for Toyota at Burnaston, Derbyshire, next month. Toyota says she is an ideal recruit: unskilled as a factory worker, but able to learn and adapt under its training system.

The gap in skills is overcome by the kind of intensive in-house training with which a government scheme could not compete. She

was sent to work on Toyota assembly lines in Japan and the United States to learn every facet of car assembly. Now Miss Beaumont, 25, is a team leader, passing on her skills to hundreds of other workers in a £7.2 million scheme to prepare 1,500 workers in time for the first Toyota cars to roll off the Derbyshire line on December 16.

Miss Beaumont's training is far removed from any given to job-seekers going through government training schemes. Car companies demand adaptability from staff able to deal with different jobs — and their training never stops.

Rover, for instance, calculates that 10,000 of its 34,000 workers are in training courses at any one time because the pace of technological change is now so rapid. The Rover Learning Business costs the company about £12 million a year.

Barrie Oxoby, learning development manager at Rover, said:

"Government schemes are too general and there is a huge lag between what they provide and what industry requires. It is out of sync with our requirements."

"We need government officials to get their coats off and to come and see what we do so that they have a better idea of the people and the training we need. The motor industry's needs have moved on from trying to recruit specific skills.

Even the highest skilled maintenance men must now be able to cover a range of crafts, from the traditional job of an electrician to fitter or welder.

The decision to "go it alone" extends to the need to find the best brains for design and engineering. Rover is one of a number of motor firms that sponsor courses at Warwick University to produce people skilled in computer-aided design and engineering.

Rover also gives workers £100 a year to spend on any training course they like, from foreign languages to livestock husbandry.

Mr Oxoby said: "There is always that idea that training is somehow remedial that they are trained because they were not good enough.

"But we regard the idea of continuous learning as important, which is why we have the employee assisted learning scheme."

Japanese demand quality

By NICHOLAS WATT

JAPANESE companies in Britain have been so frustrated by poorly trained workers that they have insisted colleges which provide new recruits must improve syllabuses.

They complain of a lacklustre attitude among workers, particularly supervisors, who fail to anticipate problems on the factory floor. In Japan, machines are checked regularly and adjusted before they break down. This anticipatory system is alien to Britain.

Noriko Hama, of Mitsubishi Research, dismisses British training. "Japanese businesses had to start from scratch to teach their workers here to revere the consumer," she said. "The Japanese found it difficult to convince their British workers that the consumer was God and should be offered a fragrant offering. The British are very much happy to settle for second best both in terms of skills and what the consumer expects."

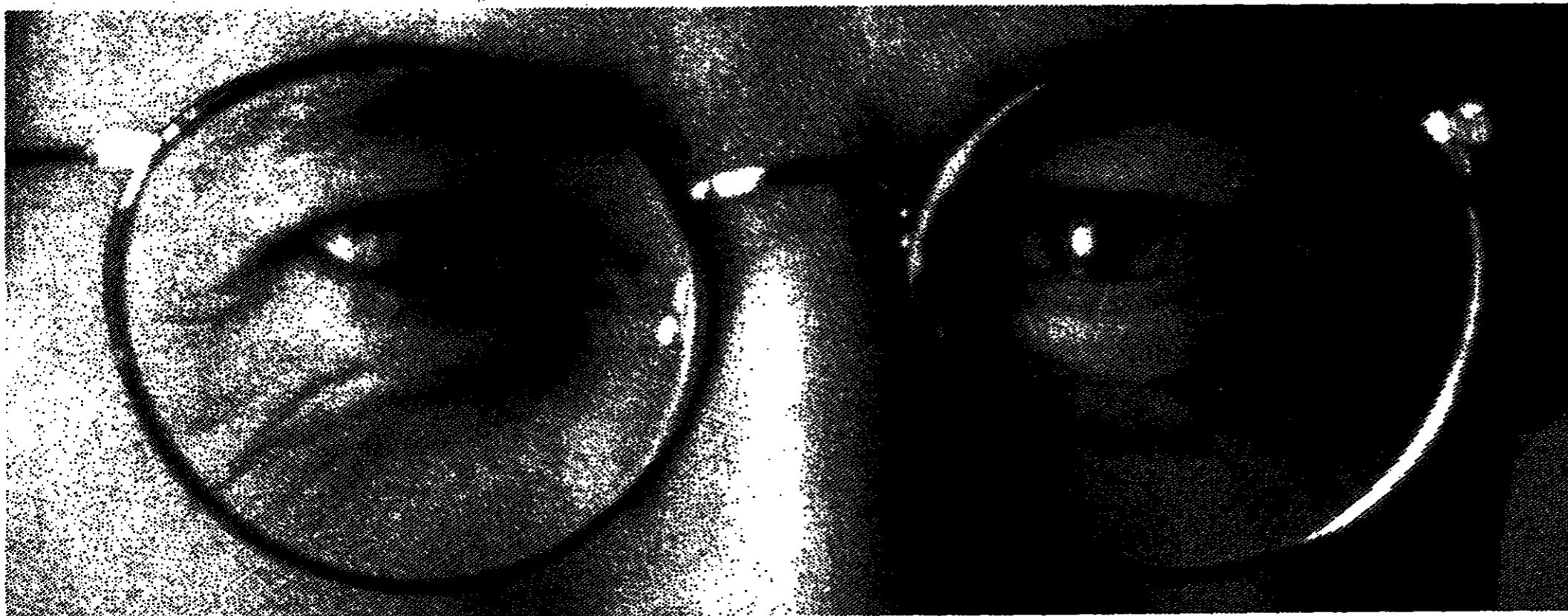
The British consumer is a long-suffering species that is willing to take what is offered. During the Industrial Revolution, Britain was streets ahead of the rest of the world but now history is turning against Britain."

Japan and Germany remained at the pinnacle of training and could teach Britain a great deal, she said. "Britain really does not count on this issue. In Japan, training is rigorous and fresh recruits learn about every facet of the company. Britain could do well to follow this notion that every single person is aware of every single aspect of their company."

Alan Smithers, head of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Manchester University, says Britain seems oblivious to Japanese achievements and unable to learn from their expertise. "In the Pacific Rim, youngsters have an excellent grasp of maths and electronics."

"If we are not careful we could be reduced to a third division power boozing from the sidelines at clever Orientals who don't play a fair game. It is as if we prefer to live in honourable poverty," he said.

Research has shown that two thirds of the British workforce lacks vocational qualifications, compared with a quarter in Germany.



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Jordan's prince of peace unfurls the banner of reason



CROWN Prince Hassan, the heir to the throne of Jordan, represents a new generation of Middle Eastern leaders anxious to transform the region.

A fluent speaker of Hebrew, an outspoken critic of Arab dictators and a near contemporary of Bill Clinton at Oxford, the prince was reluctantly thrust under the spotlight after King Husain, his elder brother, was confirmed to have cancer. But he has refused to curb his undiplomatic bluntness or his belief that Jews and Arabs should live side by side with the same harmony as the Scandinavian nations.

"I have never forgotten the integrity with which I was treated by my [Jewish] professors at Oxford in those awful months leading up to the 1967 war," he said. "Never

The heir to the throne has the will to unite a nation divided between East Bank Arabs and Palestinians, writes Christopher Walker from Amman

an unkind word, never an accusation, never a parochial influence of any kind. I respect that and we remain friends."

The prince is aware that some members of what he terms dismissively "Jordan's chattering classes" do not think he has the charisma to bind together a nation divided between Palestinians and East Bank Arabs. He knows, too, that he enjoys strong support in the army and the security services.

"I do not know what I have to do to get it right," he said of remarks levelled against him.

His great problem is that by those who regard his approach as too intellectual and aloof. "Maybe just do more of the same and be more accessible to people to explain, not myself, but what I am trying to achieve."

The increasing flow of visitors to his hilltop palace close to that of the king, who has ruled for the past 40 years, is confronted by a witty, well-read — quotes from Shakespeare are dropped effortlessly — man of 45. His main fault in the eyes of critics is that he is over-educated for the role chosen for him.

At the Guildhall in London on Thursday, he will stand in for King Husain in delivering the annual Winston Churchill address to the English Speaking Union. Some MPs tried but failed to blackball the invitation, angered that such an honour should go to him.

His rational approach to the 44-year Arab-Israeli conflict may fail to win over the Islamic extremists and Palestinian radicals who pose the main threat to Jordan's stability. "I think all this business about the talks have been fruitless" or "have been fruitless" is a fruitless exercise in itself," he said of speculation that Jordan and Israel are close to signing a Camp David-style peace treaty. "I think we are really close to an agenda, but the speech will be another step in that direction."

Asked to reconcile Jordan's recent distancing from Iraq with the special treatment given here to Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, en route to lobby the minister.

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pass through Amman to go to New York, yet at the same time we are saying to the Iraqis publicly and privately that evolution is necessary to their stability and the stability of the region."

Prince Hassan is a technocrat, impatient with the Arab bureaucracy holding up his attempts to boost Jordan's economy. He shares a love of polo with the Prince of Wales, whom he admires, and with his Harrovian accent and dressed in an impeccably tailored suit he appears to some more at home around a high table than in a bedouin tent.

He dismissed rumours in Amman about the seriousness of the king's illness as "speculative and harmful". The prince said it was not personal ambition that had placed him ahead of his elder brother.

Mohammed, and the king's sons by different marriages as next in line for the Arab world's most delicately balanced throne.

"There is an Arabic expression 'He who seeks authority does not have it invested in him' and I was not the one who sought authority in the first place," he said as his Australian secretary took notes. "I was an undergraduate in my first year at Oxford when I was called back and appointed/elected crown prince by act of parliament and his majesty's delegation.

"I do not believe in Olympian concepts of the man in charge, and that is exactly what His Majesty meant when he said [in a televised speech to the nation on November 5] that we have to end absolutism and totalitarianism in the region."

Husain throws down democratic challenge to dictator of Iraq

Husain's call for pluralism in Iraq was another step away from his Gulf war stance. But Jordan is still dependent on Baghdad's oil

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

KING Husain of Jordan, who recently legalised political parties after a 36-year ban, yesterday called for the introduction of democracy, including pluralism, in Iraq, the most brutal Arab dictatorship.

In an outspoken speech containing no mention of his failing health, the Hashemite monarch, 57, also attacked Muslim fundamentalists and Palestinian radicals plotting to overthrow him. His address to army graduates included a firm pledge to continue with

the democratisation begun after the 1989 price riots.

Next year some ten parties are to contest parliamentary elections in Jordan, but the king is under growing pressure to turn the country into a constitutional monarchy. "We perceive Jordanian democracy as a model and an example as well as a final choice for our people from which there will be no turning back," he declared yesterday.

The king's call for reform in Baghdad was seen as a direct

personal challenge to President Saddam Hussein and a snub to his recent efforts to halt Jordan's move to distance itself from Iraq. In his second important speech since returning from cancer surgery in America, the king openly named Iraq in his appeal for reform. In his previous address he alluded only indirectly to Saddam's "tyranny".

"We only wish for Iraq what we wish for ourselves and the Arab people, wherever they may be. What we wish for is a national reconciliation and democracy which would enable it to overcome all obstacles," the king said. "We also wish for political pluralism which would achieve stability and establish trust among brethren." His call was seen by Arab diplomats as likely to encourage opposition to Saddam and to increase demands for Jordan to allow opposition groups to operate from its soil.

Western embassies had been told that the king would step up his attempts to realign Jordan after fierce criticism of its pro-Iraq stand in the Gulf war. Jordan's position has been complicated because it still depends on the import of 60,000 barrels of Iraqi oil a day sent across the border at no charge technically as payment of outstanding debts.

The king was speaking for the first time since granting an amnesty to two pro-Islamic deputies sentenced to 20 years' hard labour for plotting to overthrow the monarchy and replace it with an Iranian-style republic. Declaring that "we remain perfectly capable of facing up to waywardness and conspiracy", the king denied his decision to free the plotters was a sign of defeatism.

We know well how to distinguish between good and evil, and realise full well that our attitude of decency reflects compassion, not weakness, and stems from noble-mindedness, not apprehension," he said.

DBAGHDAD: In a rare interview, published yesterday, Saddam predicted that the international isolation of Iraq would not last much longer. "I think the world would not be able to do without a country like Iraq, where the subsoil is rich in oil. So, one would find it difficult to imagine that the world will continue to snub Iraq for a very long time," he said.

Mr Demirel denied that Turkey was trying to revive pan-Turkism or pan-Islamism in Central Asia. He said Turkey wanted the newly independent former Soviet republics to stand on their own feet, but was linked to them by language, religion, history and culture. He said Turkey had been cut off from these countries by 70 years of Marxism and was now eager to strengthen relations. Turkey was in an unusual position to spread Western values and political ideas, he said, but denied that Turkey was in competition for influence — either with Iran, Russia or any other power.

Mr Demirel denied that the recent intervention by Turkish forces in northern Iraq had soured relations with the Iraqi Kurds. He said the action had been taken to stop the infiltration into Turkey of 7,000 Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas who were massed on the border. He said the PKK were "a nuisance" to Iraqi Kurds, who had asked for Turkey's help in taking action against them. Turkey was unwilling to play the role of a permanent policeman in northern Iraq, but if anything happened to the Kurds in the

Turkey has urged Turkey to do more to force a compromise on the Turkish Cypriots. Mr Demirel said that maintaining forces on the island and supporting the economy of northern Cyprus was costly for Turkey, and that the international isolation of the self-proclaimed republic of northern Cyprus meant that Turkish Cypriots were virtually living "in jail".

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Carrying on the fight: Antonio Gomes da Costa, pictured at a secret mountain camp in Indonesian-ruled East Timor, has taken over as leader of the Fretilin guerrilla group. His predecessor, Xanana Gusmão, was captured by government troops on Friday in the capital city of Dili. Fretilin has been waging a separatist campaign since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975. (Reuters)

Disillusioned Angola voters wait in fear for renewal of civil war

FROM SAM KILEY IN HUAMBO

WITH senior commanders on both sides of the Angolan conflict losing control of their men, United Nations observers have described the situation around Huambo, the temporary headquarters of Jonas Savimbi's Unita (Union for the Total Liberation of Angola), as "a guaranteed recipe for conflict".

Although the armies of the government and Unita have for the past two weeks observed a tenuous ceasefire in much of the country, UN military observers in Huambo, Angola's second largest city, said at the weekend that the ceasefire would hold for only a short time unless a radical political solution could

be found to the present stand-off. Huambo has recently twice been the scene of heavy fighting.

With Dr Savimbi and Unita politicians refusing to attend Friday's opening of the Angolan legislature, in which they have 70 seats, for fear of assassination attempts, soldiers on both sides appear to be preparing for battle. It is now clear that neither side was at all committed to the peace process, a senior UN official in Luanda said yesterday.

"The flashpoint may be the convening of parliament or it may come later. But fighting now looks almost inevitable," he added.

Fear of renewed fighting

has paralysed most of the country. Huambo, once a bustling provincial capital, is almost silent as its citizens wait in fear. "We want an end to the war. We voted, we believed in democracy, and now it has all fallen apart," one elderly local businessman said.

In an effort to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table, Margaret Anstee, head of the UN mission to Angola, is expected to fly to Huambo to see Dr Savimbi this week. UN sources and other diplomats agree there is little she can do because both sides have drifted too far apart since Dr Savimbi left Luanda last month denouncing the elections, which he lost, as rigged.

Clan wars bring harvest of terror in Natal's fertile valleys

Feuding local supporters of Inkatha and the African National Congress tell Michael Hamlyn of their battles

for the political control of the black population. Patheni is under the control of the Inkatha Freedom Party. The other "locations" are claimed by the African National Congress. The burnt-out houses in Patheni are where the ANC members used to live. In Indaleni the burnt buildings are mostly Inkatha followers' homes. In between, many of the houses have been burnt in the conflict.

No one here really knows how it all began. Everyone knows that gradually a tradition of vicious fighting for territory,

tional Zulu faction fight, or *umbanga*, became a political war fought with AK47 assault rifles or G3 sub-machineguns instead of spears and knobkerries.

Patrus Vesi, who looks every inch a warlord, with a shaven head and broken-toothed snarl, is Inkatha chairman in Patheni. He thinks it all began when people from a clan in Indaleni killed a member of a rival clan in Patheni. One clan was helped

by the ANC and some of the "comrades" began attacking the Patheni villagers. Naturally, Inkatha had to defend them.

Sifiso Nkabinde, in Indaleni, the Richmond district chairman of the ANC, broad and bearded, thinks it began in January 1990, with a raid on his uncle's house by men from Patheni. One attacker died and his home-made weapon was captured by the defenders. A second man allowed his weapon, an army issue rifle, to fall into the hands of the Indaleni villagers. The Patheni side demanded the rifle back and mounted a revenge expedition. Eight people died that night.

A row ensued over the

An Inkatha attack on homes in greater Indaleni in June has led to court cases on counts of murder and attempted murder.

The ANC is claiming its members have the right to live where they choose and to free political activity. The Patheni population fears that, once they allow the young comrades of the ANC into their village, it would be tantamount to letting an enemy *impi* (Zulu regiment) take up residence.

The Patheni people say the refugees must accept the authority of Patheni's hereditary chief in traditional Zulu fashion, before they are allowed to return. The ANC says it rejects such non-democratic archaisms.

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Haitians set test for Democrats' new team

■ Bill Clinton is swiftly backtracking on his campaign pledge to provide a refuge for Haitian boat people. But the message has not got through to the would-be refugees

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TENS of thousands of Haitians are expected to make a further attempt to reach the United States after Bill Clinton's inauguration on January 20, presenting the new president with an immediate and serious problem largely of his own making.

Eve-witnesses, refugee organisations and Bush administration sources all confirm that preparations are well advanced for a new mass exodus from the impoverished Caribbean nation, currently under military rule.

"When the US Coast Guard has flown over Haiti they have seen hundreds of boats being built," a State Department official said yesterday. William O'Neill, deputy director of New York's Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, fore-

cast that up to 40,000 Haitians would flee in rickety boats in the coming months. Some observers even talk of an exodus to match the 1980 Mariel exodus when President Castro sent 125,000 Cuban refugees to Florida.

Mariel was a political disaster not only for President Carter but for Mr Clinton. As a young first-term governor, he agreed to hold many of the Cubans in Arkansas prisons.



Clinton takes gamble in Georgia vote

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN MACON, GEORGIA

BILL Clinton, America's president-elect, might have been expected to steer clear of the campaign trail for a while, but yesterday he was back on the stump in Georgia supporting Senator Wyche Fowler, the Democrat whose run-off election today against the Republican contender, Paul Coverdell, is widely seen as the first big hurdle of the incoming administration — or a chance for the outgoing one to salvage a symbolic victory in the wake of defeat.

On November 3 the participation of a third candidate ensured that neither candidate won 50 per cent of the vote required for victory under Georgia law, and the second senatorial election has attracted rather more energy and national interest than the first, as well as huge advertising campaigns and the involvement of party notables.

With the projected result too close to call, some of Mr Clinton's advisers have questioned the wisdom of participating in a campaign which, if unsuccessful, could mar the otherwise smooth process towards transition.

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia was reportedly instrumental in persuading Mr Clinton to put loyalty above discretion, even though the polls taken by Clinton's staff showed a dangerously close race. Just four weeks ago, during the last Democratic campaign rally in Georgia, it was Senator Fowler who endorsed Mr Clinton; yesterday, at rallies in Macon and Albany, their roles were reversed.

Both sides realise that the key to this election lies in persuading Georgia's voters, like the rest of the nation exhausted by two years of electioneering to vote again. On November 3, 73 per cent of the state turned out to vote; pollsters say that turnout in today's vote could fall as low as 10 per cent. But defining a "likely voter" in these circumstances is virtually im-



Fighting chance: Wyche Fowler, Democratic senator for Georgia for the past five years, faces a close election today in a key test of party support

possible, since this is the first time in American history that a senatorial run-off has immediately followed a presidential election. Mr Fowler's chances of re-election depend on being able to marshal support among the women, the liberals and particularly the black voters who elected him in 1986. "I may be white," he told supporters, "but my soul is black." Mr Coverdell is culti-

vating the Christian fundamentalist, and predominantly white vote.

The race has inevitably

been portrayed as a national referendum with Democ-

atic incumbents anxious to keep up

their post-election momen-

tum, retain the party's 57-

43 advantage in the Senate

and avoid a potentially em-
barassing defeat, while Re-

publicans are equally keen

to prove that the party can

still rally the faithful. Mr Coverdell's success in forcing a run-off with the Demo-

cratic incumbent has

brought in a flurry of dona-

tions from Republicans eager

for vengeance, and in the

last few days Republican

notables have descended on

Georgia in force to show

support for a candidate once

regarded as an outside bet.

Jack Kemp, the housing

secretary, told Georgia Re-

publicans (amid placards proclaiming "Kemp in '96") that a victory for Mr Coverdell would help to "redeem" the Republicans after President Bush's defeat. On Friday Mr Bush's wife Barbara, campaigning in Georgia, said: "A lot of people voted for the president-elect, but an awful lot more voted against him" — just one day after she had graciously embraced Mr Clinton's wife Hillary outside the White House.

Mr Clinton's participation in a campaign that seems anything but certain is seen as a gamble by some Democrats, not just because his presence may galvanise bitter Republicans as much as loyal Democrats, but also because the decision to campaign in such a partisan election cuts across the anti-establishment image Mr Clinton has sought to convey. Last week Al Gore, the vice-president-elect, also made several campaign appearances.

Mr Fowler, who has been accused of running a lacklustre first campaign, is now hitting the hustings with remarkable energy and bursts of characteristic wit. "The circus had left," he said recently, bemoaning a run-off he plainly does not relish, "and here was this one chimpanzee still looking around for nuts." He might be forgiven for feeling resentful, having gained 30,000 more votes than his opponent, enough to win most offices in most states other than Georgia.

Senator Fowler's most prominent opponent in the race, after Mr Coverdell, has been Charlton Heston, the actor and staunch Republican activist. Mr Heston appears to have taken his party's defeat personally, and has campaigned hard in Georgia as a sort of latter-day Republican Moses, this most famous film role, carrying around two stone tablets engraved with what he calls Senator Fowler's "top ten lies". In a radio interview last week Mr Heston described the contest as "the most important election ever" for Georgia.

Peru poll boost for President Fujimori

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN LIMA

PRESIDENT Fujimori of Peru yesterday hailed the victory of the parties he endorsed in Sunday's congressional elections as a personal triumph. He claimed it was a sign of his government's popularity and support for his promise to wipe out terrorist violence.

Exit polls compiled by independent companies gave the Nueva Mayoria Cambio 90 party, made up of candidates loyal to the president, a 38.6 per cent majority in the 80-seat congress. Another party sympathetic to the president, the Renovation party, won 5.5 per cent of the vote.

The official results will be out in the next two days. Although the majority is not as high as government supporters expected, it will give Señor Fujimori control over congress and the power to change the constitution as he wishes.

Señor Fujimori said the results indicated support from Peruvians for his self-initiated coup on April 5, when he abolished the previous parliament and judiciary with the backing of the military, and took on the powers of a dictator. He told journalists: "These elections show that what I did, I did with the backing of the Peruvian people."

He said he abolished democratic institutions because they were corruption-ridden, blocking his hardline policies to clamp down on Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrillas, considered Latin America's most lethal terrorist group.

Jáime Yoshiyama, leader of the Nueva Mayoria-Cambio 90, said that one of his party's main objectives in the new congress would be to install the death penalty for terrorists. Now the government may attempt to reverse Shining Path leader Abimael Guzmán's life sentence, to which he was condemned in a recent trial, and retry him to impose the death penalty.

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Turks talk of intervention in Bosnia to halt fighting

Turkey has ethnic, religious and historic links with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sceptical of the results of the London conference, it is ready to play the part of regional peacemaker

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

TURKEY, adding to its already strong calls for military intervention, has organised a one-day conference tomorrow of all Balkan states in Ankara to try to increase pressure for an end to the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Suleyman Demirel, the prime minister, briefed John Major on his plans at the start of a two-day visit to Britain yesterday. He said at a press conference beforehand that he hoped military intervention would not be needed, but Turkey was ready to take part in an international operation to stop the bloodshed.

Britain has strong doubts about the proposed conference, which Whitehall officials said could slow down and cut across efforts made in Geneva by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the European Community and UN negotiators. "It depends on what the conference is supposed to do. We see it as largely irrelevant," one official said.

Mr Demirel said Turkey's concern was humanitarian. "It's not a matter of Islam or Christianity. Blood is blood, no matter whose it is. Something has to be done," he said.

Henry Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State, gave a warning on Sunday that the Bosnian conflict could grow into a "religious war in the heart of Europe". He said Muslim communities in the former Yugoslavia would not accept another ethnic cleansing. "The situation may be getting out of control."

In Belgrade yesterday a top UN official admitted that the much vaunted "no-fly zone" proclaimed by the UN over Bosnia-Herzegovina was daily flouted and said peacekeepers in the region were powerless to stop violations. The admission came as Western navies went into action to enforce a new Security Council resolution to stop sanctions-busting and gun-running along the Adriatic coast. In the first stop-and-search mission, an Ecuadorian vessel bound for Slovenia and a Syrian freighter heading for Croatia were inspected and released.

In Bosnia itself, fierce fighting across the country ended any belief that a 12-day

"ceasefire" was still in force. Cedric Thornberry, the deputy head of the United Nations Protection Force, said in Belgrade that UN military observers in Sarajevo had counted 192 mortar shells falling on the city. Only two shells were fired in return.

In Zagreb, a UN spokesman said humanitarian flights to Sarajevo were suspended because of the fighting there. He said 15 flights got through yesterday, but two were suspended after artillery fire sharply increased.

Mr Thornberry went on to paint one of the blackest pictures yet of the situation in Bosnia and in Serb-held parts of Croatia. He said the UN had detected more than 100 violations of the no-fly zone in the past month. Under the present UN resolution, the protection force had neither the capacity nor the mandate to shoot down violators.

The revelation that the no-fly zone is being widely disregarded will come as a shock to Western policy-makers because of the inevitable demands that violators should be shot down. Many think this would be the first step to full-scale military intervention.

In what may turn out to be another unpleasant surprise, Mr Thornberry said that the UN would be able to determine in the next few days whether or not regular troops of the Croatian army, as opposed to Bosnian Croat soldiers, were operating in Herzegovina. If the UN decides that regular Croatian troops are in action, there will be increasing pressure on the security council to be even-handed and apply sanctions on Croatia to match those on Serbia and Montenegro.

□ Milosevic challenged: The moribund Serbian election campaign will be given a boost today when Jezica Vasilevic, a private banker and impresario, announces his challenge to Slobodan Milosevic, the president. He said yesterday he would throw his hat into the ring today and gave a warning that, if he did not defeat the "Marxist monarch Milosevic", war would spread across the Balkans and the rest of the world "like fire".

Travnik gunmen deterred

FROM REUTER
IN SARAJEVO

FIGHTING near the central Bosnian town of Travnik cased off after British troops in armoured personnel carriers were deployed around a warehouse containing United Nations relief supplies. Barry Frewer, a UN spokesman, said yesterday.

"We have certainly noticed a great reduction in the level of activity in the area. We trust that our presence has acted as some kind of deterrent," Mr Frewer said. The troops will remain deployed for the foreseeable future. Serb forces have advanced to within a few miles of the town.

In Sarajevo, the city is recovering from the worst shelling since a ceasefire was agreed by the Serbs. Muslims and Croats 12 days ago. All but two of the 194 shells fired on Sunday fell on Bosnian government positions.

The UN-chained military working group, which brings together the warring factions, was scheduled to discuss the ceasefire and humanitarian aid routes yesterday.

Refugees exchange jail for limbo

FROM ADAM LEBOV IN KARLOVAC, CROATIA, AND CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

HOME for Amir now is a narrow iron bunkbed in a room shared with 40 fellow Muslims, ex-inmates of Serb-run detention camps in Bosnia. The scene is one all too familiar in this blighted corner of eastern Europe: refugees lie back listlessly on their thin mattresses, a thick log of cigarette smoke hanging in the air.

But in many ways the 1,500 Muslims now living in cramped and chilly conditions in a former army barracks in the Croatian town of Karlovac are the lucky ones. Thousands of their compatriots remain in detention camps, but they are fed and cared for by the Red Cross in the comparative safety of Croatia. They can no longer be taken away to be detained or killed.

Amir, 35, an engineer from a village near Prijedor was arrested by Serbs on July 20 and taken to a detention centre. On August 5 he was transferred to Trnopolje where he stayed until the beginning of October when he was released to Karlovac. He has been promised a home in Holland, where his family is.

"It's all much too slow and we have been waiting too long. I don't understand why countries like Britain won't take more refugees," he said.

Many of those in Karlovac are deeply traumatised by the atrocities they witnessed. Each has a horrific story to tell of beatings, torture and summary executions. And they are bitter and disillusioned about the failure of the West to offer

them rapid sanctuary. A wave of revulsion swept around the world after television pictures showed bone-thin and terrified prisoners in the Serb camps. But now hundreds of them are stuck in a bureaucratic twilight zone, unable to go home but unable to leave.

"It's easy to say that the refugee problem should be solved in the local area, but these are not parcels, they are living people," said Alf Nordstrom, Karlovac's Red Cross co-ordinator. "Western countries are trying to buy themselves free of their responsibilities, but these people need to get out."

Just over 600 ex-inmates have left Karlovac. About 3,000 across the country have been offered places in

West, but that number at least are still languishing in the camps because no country has offered to take them. A further 755 have just arrived from Manjaca to take the places of those who have left. Around 500 have been offered transit facilities by the Swiss government. Red Cross officials say they could bring out thousands more if Western countries agreed to take them in.

Croatia, already struggling to feed and house up to a million refugees, has closed its doors until the West takes new displaced people.

The net result is that thousands of terrified Bosnian Muslims still face a winter of fear and hunger because of government lethargy. Many relief officials say privately that they are disgusted at the slow and piecemeal response of the West to the greatest humanitarian disaster in Europe since the second world war.

There is also anger at the British decision to impose visa requirements on Bosnians when the nearest embassies in Belgrade or Vienna are both unreachable, a move akin to telling Jewish refugees in the second world war to get to the British Embassy in Lisbon to apply for sanctuary.

Most of the Muslim men in Karlovac said they did not even want to remain in the West, and would immediately return and fight if they were given guns. "We are all ready to go back and fight," said Fazil, a motor mechanic in his thirties, who was held in Trnopolje for three months.

"Twenty two members of my family have been killed or disappeared. If I had a gun I would go back tomorrow." □ Macedonia talks: EC special envoy Robin O'Neill said today that a solution was close on the question of the community's recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Mr O'Neill said that after talks with Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, "we are as close to a solution as you can be".

Athens and the land-locked republic have been embroiled in a bitter row over the use of the word Macedonia by Skopje, with Greece claiming that it implies territorial designs against its northern province of the same name.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain and Georgia agree to closer ties

London: Britain and Georgia initiated four agreements yesterday on cultural co-operation, the mutual lifting of travel restrictions, investment protection and a declaration of co-operation and consultation between the two countries. They will be formally signed later (Michael Binyon writes).

The agreements are the first between the two countries since Georgia became independent and were initiated after talks here between Aleksandr Chikvadze, the foreign minister, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Britain, which took the lead in Europe in recognising Georgia after Eduard Shevardnadze returned to power, has recently increased the know-how fund that is available to Georgia.

Mr Hurd expressed concern over the fighting in Georgia and especially reports of atrocities committed in the battle between Georgian forces and Abkhazia.

Staff chief dies

Moscow: Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, 49, head of Russia's general staff, has died "after a long illness", the defence ministry said. General Dubynin, a veteran of the Afghan war, had served as commander of Soviet forces in Poland. (Reuters)

Bush funeral

Greenwich, Conn: President Bush, his wife Barbara and their five children were among more than 100 relatives who attended the funeral of Dorothy Walker Bush, 91, the president's mother, who died last week. (AP)

Arms found

Forli: A cache of rocket-launchers, grenades and sub-machine-guns probably destined for the Mafia has been unearthed in a wooded area near this town in northeast Italy 30 miles from the Adriatic coast. police said. (Reuters)

Majority won

Vilnius: Lithuania's Democratic Labour party, the former Communist party, won 73 out of 141 parliamentary seats in last week's election, according to the official results. Sajudis, which led the country to independence, won 30 seats. (AP)

Sailors' legacy

Manila: President Ramos has pledged to support the illegitimate children of US servicemen after the closure of the naval base at Subic Bay, but has asked for help from Washington. The sailors will leave behind them at least 23,000 Amerasians. (Reuters)

Capsule lands

Seattle: A Russian space capsule splashed down off the coast of Washington carrying a payload of peace messages, religious icons and requests for business investment in Russia. The friendship flight marked the International Year of Space. (AP)

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Yeltsin strikes reform deal with the industrial lobby

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S government has reached agreement with the powerful industrial lobby on a programme of reforms, bolstering its position before a crucial parliamentary session, a senior official was quoted as saying yesterday.

Vladimir Shumeiko, the first deputy prime minister, said in the southern city of Krasnodar that the government had completed an anti-crisis programme on Sunday which incorporated proposals of the centre-right Civic Union, Interfax news agency reported.

The *Commerciant* daily newspaper said an agreement between the two sides envisaged that the Civic Union would use its influence at next month's session of the Congress of People's Deputies, the supreme legislature, to head off attempts to unseat the cabinet. Such an agreement, if implemented, would help President Yeltsin and his reformist acting prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, to win a clash with conservative opponents.

It was unclear what policy changes Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar had agreed to in their reform strategy as price of winning Civic Union support. The Civic Union claims the support of up to a third of Congress deputies and has been advocating a slower pace of reforms, with more support

for state-owned industry. The *Commerciant* quoted a document agreed by experts from both sides and due to be signed by the cabinet and Civic Union leaders, as saying that the government, if implemented, would play a bigger role in "regulating the formation of market relations". This appeared to contradict the thrust of the "shock therapy" liberalisation adopted by the cabinet a year ago and backed by the West.

The document also stated that inflation was much higher than had been expected. "The results of the first year of reforms give no ground for euphoria," it said.

The Congress, opening on December 1, has been billed as the setting for a decisive battle over the economy between conservative deputies and radical reformers. On the eve of the Congress, there have been sharp political clashes as the two sides have maneuvered to rally support.

Izvestia reported yesterday that Civic Union members and the hardline opposition to Mr Yeltsin had agreed to work for the removal of four key figures in his entourage, including the liberal foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev or Mr Gaidar and will not carry out any reshuffle under pressure from the Congress.

Mr Burbulis made clear on Sunday that Mr Yeltsin intended to press for a new constitutional agreement at the session that will confirm his authority as president. His remarks clearly suggested that Mr Yeltsin did not simply want to weather the storm at the Congress but would seek to clip parliament's wings and strengthen the executive's powers to prevent a time-consuming confrontation every six months.

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Common links with royals

Royalty matters immensely to large numbers of people, but it is not at all obvious why this should be so. What is it in human nature which seems to demand that some people be singled out as magically significant even though their contributions to civilisation and human welfare are no more than fund-raising?

We all pay tribute to those men and women who have scaled the heights: the great writers, painters, musicians, scientists, mathematicians and inventors who have enriched human existence, enhanced our quality of life, widened our understanding of the world and enlarged our perception of human capabilities. Even a few politicians are worthy of some respect.

But the members of our royal family are unremarkable. The Prince of Wales is reasonably well educated, but I can't think of any member of the royal family with whom I would choose to pass an evening. Those who idealise royalty do so because of the royals' gifts or achievements.

Enormous wealth is always intriguing. Many people like to imagine what it would be like to own several huge mansions, to be waited on by courtiers, servants, to be entirely free of any concern about money. The disastrous fire at Windsor Castle arouses anxiety about the loss of irreplaceable works of art; but we know that the building will be restored with taxpayers' money and the royal family may not even be asked to contribute. Inherited wealth is less interesting than that accumulated by ingenuity, flair, or even chicanery. It is not their money which makes the royals fascinating.

Why do such ordinary people command such extraordinary attention? The royal family fulfils a secret wish which is familiar to most of us. Human beings want to be loved for themselves alone, irrespective of their looks, gifts, achievements or personality. Most of us only experience this unequivocal love when we are babies. Babies may be hideous, red-faced, squalling bundles of incontinence, but their mothers love them whatever they are like. Babies are adored for what they are, not for what they do. We would like this to go on throughout life, although it never does.

As babies get older, they discover that just being is not enough: they no longer get love for nothing. But royals go on being treated as worthy of adoration throughout their lives without necessarily doing anything to deserve it. Edward VII remained popular and respected in spite of his greed and lechery. Edward VIII continued to attract sycophants even after his abdication in spite of his obvious



DR ANTHONY STORR

The soap opera of royalty fascinates because it shows that ordinary people can attract devotion

Nobel prize in physics seems incomprehensible.

But the ups and downs of family life are familiar to us all. It is a sad reflection on our educational system that so few people are interested in ideas or in the arts. If the life of the mind is a closed book, what is left to make life interesting? The answer is the vagaries of the neighbours. For many people, life consists of a series of soap operas, some on television, some in real life. The royal soap opera, which sells so many newspapers, fascinates readers because it shows that boring, ordinary people like you, me and the neighbours can yet attract devotion. Royalty is the apotheosis of the commonplace.

Human beings, like many social animals, are hierarchical creatures. We are bound to put some of our number at the top of the tree and to regard such people with a measure of special respect or even awe. But to make such eminence derive from an accident of birth rather than from any excellence of personality or achievement is to perpetuate the class structure and snobbery which other nations find so distasteful in British life.

There is something to be said for having a head of state who can carry out ceremonial functions and represent Britain without also representing a political party. But surely we can choose such a head of state rather than having one thrust upon us. Our psychological need for a representative leader ought to be met democratically.

Rational thinking, according to Professor Sutherland's definition, is whatever is most likely to be correct given the knowledge one has rational action the one most likely to achieve the desired end. Irrationality, therefore, is coming to conclusions that cannot be justified by one's current knowledge. "Any thought process that leads to a conclusion or a decision that is not the best that could have been reached in the light of the evidence, given the time constraints that apply, is irrational," he says.

His book covers more than a hundred different causes in three main groups: social, emotional and cognitive. Among the latter he would include the "availability error", or judging by the first thing that comes to mind, which is in turn often the most dramatic. This, for instance, is the sort of thinking that stops Americans coming to Europe after a hijacking in which fact they are more

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Bring back the age of reason

The consequences of irrational behaviour can be disastrous.
Liz Gill meets a professor who wants us to see sense

Suppose you buy a theatre ticket for a play that turns out to be so excruciatingly bad you would gladly have paid money not to be there. Do you stick with it to the final curtain? Stuart Sutherland, professor of psychology at Sussex University, frequently does, but at least he knows he is behaving irrationally. The rest of us, it seems, somehow think we are getting our money's worth.

The sensible thing of course is to leave, he says. "That way you only suffer the monetary loss, instead of the double blow of an hour or two's needless boredom as well. The mistake arises because people fail to realise that all that matters is their future gains and losses: they should ignore the past except in so far as one can learn from it."

Misplaced consistency — the phenomenon whereby people who have made a sacrifice of money, time or



Professor Sutherland: happier

effort in order to do something tend to go on doing it even when they stand to lose more than they gain — matters little when it only involves an evening's entertainment. It is important decision-makers who Professor Sutherland hopes to reach with his new book, *Irrationality: The Enemy Within*, though he would like the neophytes to benefit, too.

"Most of the decisions we make are pretty low-level, otherwise we wouldn't have survived," he says.

"There has been a lack of evolutionary pressure to increase rationality:

you don't need much to find food and shelter and raise a family."

But when a general, for example, applies misplaced consistency to war strategy, the results can be horrific.

In the first world war it became apparent, if only from the battle of Verdun, where 800,000 lives were lost, that in trench warfare direct attacks were not only doomed to failure but would cost the attackers far more than the defenders," Professor Sutherland says. "Yet in the battle of the Somme, despite losing 57,000 men in the first few hours, General Haig continued to attack well-defended German positions with further appalling losses."

"But I think we'd all be happier if we were more rational. We might not get drunk and have hangovers so much, we might buy better cars and houses for less money, we might not even rush into disastrous marriages.

But the really bad effects of irrationality occur mainly when major decisions are being taken by people such as doctors, judges, engineers, managers and politicians."

"There is something to be said for having a head of state who can carry out ceremonial functions and represent Britain without also representing a political party. But surely we can choose such a head of state rather than having one thrust upon us. Our psychological need for a representative leader ought to be met democratically."

"It's just as common in the professions," he says. "It is known, for example, that a doctor who has recently seen a number of cases of a particular disease becomes more prone to diagnose it in patients who have not got it." Other bad thinking habits include falling for the "halo effect", where one good trait enhances other unrelated characteristics; being overconfident; failing to assess risk correctly; and mistaking the cause.

"When the Thatcher government wanted to introduce student loans, it argued that going to university increases earning power," Professor Sutherland says. "Graduates do earn more on average, but there are other factors, such as higher IQ, more determination, parents who may be in a position to help. The causal connection between a university education and higher pay later is not proven and education ministers' repeated assertions that it is only demonstrate that the education system has not taught them how to think."

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The greatest challenge to Bonn comes not from the outright neo-Nazis but from the astute politicians on the far right, Peter Millar writes

When will Germany draw the line?

A cold wind blows across Dresden's main square, the Altmarkt, funnelled through the drab tower block hotels that stand like empty cigarette packets along the soulless pedestrian precinct laid out by the communists after Bomber Harris and his boys blew away the city's baroque heart.

Here and there a motley group of youths meets to smoke and mooch about. They could be in a depressed economy anywhere. Their only uniform is that of universal youth in the 1990s: the boys in blue jeans, the few girls in leggings, the legs of both sexes ending in ugly, heavy black boots. The young men are not skinheads; their haircuts are more like those of foppish Victorian bank clerks, razored close up back and sides with a thick mop on top. The only special characteristic marking them out is the circular cloth patch, sewn on to jeans or denim jackets, with its black eagle and the legend "Proud to be a German".

This is the front-line of the far-right fringe of German politics. These teenagers represent the submerged lower half of the iceberg which has sunk Germany's reputation, rehabilitated over 40 years of studied application to democracy in the west.

Almost exactly two years ago, in November 1990, only one month after German unification, the small eastern German town of Eberswalde was the scene of a murder which still weighs on the national conscience: an Anglo-German immigrant worker was beaten to death in the street. Instead of pointing the finger at his killers, the townspeople closed ranks. It was not until September this year that a successful prosecution was brought. But that attack was only the beginning.

In the past two years there is scarcely a corner of the old communist state that has not seen an explosion of racial hatred directed at immigrants from Africa, Asia or the poorer parts of eastern Europe. Hoyerswerda, Rostock, Eisenhüttenstadt, Quedlinburg, picturesque country towns and unloved industrial settlements alike, have erupted in violence that foreign commentators have quickly compared with the anti-Jewish pogroms of the 1930s. To the all-too-evident discomfiture of the politicians in Bonn, their compatriots in the east, newly liberated from one totalitarianism, have abused that freedom to adopt the trappings of another: the stiff arm salutes, the swastika tattoo and the cries of "Sieg Heil" in the streets are the automatic first focus for foreign cameramen.

But the hatred is real. On the streets of Rostock on the warm nights of last August the rioting crowds had their quota of punks, skinheads and other *Chauvinists* who had come in buses from Berlin on the offchance of a battle with police. But they mingled with the tough determined faces of the local working class, factory workers thrown on the dole like so much overmatured in the building of the new Germany, expressing their anger with sticks and stones.

The reality of the renaissance of Germany's extreme right is more complicated than the simple "neo-Nazi" tag suggests. In Dresden's Altmarkt Hans, one of the more articulate of this little clump of right-wingers, tried to explain:

"We're no Nazis. We are simply patriotic Germans but we do not want our cities taken over by blacks and foreigners." Yet a few weeks ago a group of Hans' colleagues marched through the Altmarkt and raised their hands in Nazi salutes. Gisela Hase, a housewife in her 60s, was shocked not so much by the young — "they are fools who do not remember the Nazi years, the war" — but by the older people who stood and applauded.

When the Queen visited Dresden last month these youths were on that square. Two of their number threw eggs, but no one is saying who. They are not even sure why. The ostensible reason was resignation for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother unveiled a statue of Bomber Harris in London. But there is no real lust for revenge: they do not hate the English here. They hate *Aussiedler*, and the word for "foreigner" in the modern German sense has many gradations.

Theoretically, because of the European Community's regulations on common rights to live and work in any member country, *Aussiedler* is often used as a shorthand term for non-EC citizens. But even in the most liberal social circles, there is a racial overtones: for example, Austrians and Swiss, while not EC citizens, are not considered *Aussiedler*; while Greeks might well be, and even southern Italians and Portuguese are on a border line which has more to do with Europe's ancient north-south divide, now that the artificial east-west line of the Cold War has been wiped away.

The real *Aussiedler* are those who look different, the Africans and Asians, the Romany gypsies, the Turks and the Vietnamese. For east Germans, society today the best companion is with a patient emerging from 40 years in the closed regime of a labour camp to find his home, so fondly remembered, has



Magnet to cameramen: neo-Nazis in Dresden last month. The hatred displayed is severely damaging Germany's reputation

been sublet to strangers.

The rise of the right is a national phenomenon, as illustrated by last spring's local elections in which the two legal extreme right-wing parties — the Republicans and the German People's Union — jumped over the 5-per-cent hurdle to win seats in, respectively, both Baden-Württemberg in the southwest and Schleswig-Holstein in the north. There are now no further elections until 1994 but the far-right plans to put up candidates then across the entire country and only an intensification of the arguments between the factions may prevent it from making a radical alteration to the political landscape.

For the greatest dilemma facing Germany is not the threat from the outright neo-Nazis so beloved by the British tabloids, but the task of drawing that line where the respectable right merges into the unconscionable. In the tony youth clubs in the suburbs of the eastern German cities, there is no doubt about who is on the wrong side of the line. In Gorbitz in the suburbs of Dresden, these sour-faced boys can be seen any evening at local bars, drinking too much and willing to scream "Sieg Heil" at any photographer for the price of a beer. And there are those who would be leaders: half-baked phonies intellectuals who describe themselves as "National Socialists". They sense a historical opportunity for a "new beginning" in the ashes of communism.

Only three years ago the youth clubs where these amateur Nazis drink were adorned with plaques of Lenin at local headquarters of the Free German Youth. The

young Youth, the blue-shirted "advance guard of the party", which was to the communist elite what the Hitler Youth was to the Führer. It is temptingly easy to see the children of one totalitarian regime seduced by nostalgia for another.

But that is a simplification of the truth. Ramona, a 16-year-old schoolgirl from Rostock, in a recent interview with *Stern* magazine produced, almost in the same breath, two statements which showed a flawed but "politically correct" view of history cohabiting with a cynical intolerance:

"Hitler was a real pig. He put Jews in an oven and turned on the gas," then she added: "If one [an immigrant] croaks, no one gives a shit."

Her friend Ralf, a mere 14, was out on the streets in the August rioting during which dozens were injured and an immigrant hostel burnt out by petrol bombs. He was not worried what his parents might think: he had met his father among the rioters.

At the root of every complaint about the immigrants lies the gut belief that the obviously alien faces in the streets of these towns belong to freeloaders come to usurp the birthright of affluence that east Germans feel cheated of twice over: once, by 40 years of communist dictatorship, and once again by the failure of

unification boom in the west as its industries ate up what was worth having in the east and enjoyed the expanded market has deflated as that market runs out of money.

For the country as a whole, the influx of perhaps half a million refugees this year alone is proving a psychological and economic strain that is threatening the fragile consensus politics that made West Germany among the most stable postwar European democracies.

The man who has made most capital out of these gut feelings is Franz Schönhuber, chairman of *Die Republikaner*, the Republi-

cans, the extreme right-wing grouping which is the country's fastest-growing political party (see below). From small beginnings in Munich — a more than uncomfortable parallel for some — the "Reps" have expanded dramatically, capturing seats in local government from Berlin to Baden-Württemberg, the wealthiest of west German states, where Herr Schönhuber's party captured 10.9 per cent of the vote.

Herr Schönhuber, at 69, is an astute politician who has sailed his party faultlessly along a radical right-wing line that still remains well within the carefully-defined bounds of the constitution. He wisely refuses to be known as leader — Führer — of the party, preferring the innocuous *Vorsitzender*, chairman. Herr Schönhuber is an affable man with a fondness for unthreatening lemon sweaters and the comfortable manner learned as a television presenter in Bavaria.

Herr Schönhuber, an admirer of Margaret Thatcher, insists: "All I want is the right to be as proud of my nationality as she is of hers."

Germany's commitment to "Europe" was the logical summation of the postwar years of reconciliation with France. But unification has reopened the door to eastern Europe and the Balkans — and the neighbours are scaling the fences. The Community has failed to share the problem, by being unable

to agree a common European immigration rule which, as an EC directive, could override Germany's constitutional right to asylum. According to German interior ministry figures, more than 90 per cent of those currently claiming asylum status are found to have no legal justification for it. The Social Democratic opposition has been torn apart over amending a constitutional right to asylum which was decreed as atonement for Nazism. The irony escapes nobody that that very law is now creating the preconditions for a new rise of fascism.

The "Proud to be German" badge worn on the jeans of the youths in Dresden is the successor to the "Swords to Ploughshares" badge worn in the same city a decade ago by peace campaigners confronting the communist authorities.

Beyond their message — be it nationalism, racism, or fascism — lies a common symbol of opposition to authority, a status quo that has let them down. The still open question is how that resentment may be channeled. On that, the fate of modern Germany could depend and, as we have seen before, even quite recently, in or out of the EC the fate of Germany determines the fate of Europe.

Turks recoil at deaths

German police are braced for acts of revenge by members of the country's large Turkish community in the wake of the killings of two Turkish women and a ten-year-old girl by suspected neo-Nazi terrorists in a northern German village early yesterday. The killings in the village of Mölln, (pop. 16,000) were the culmination of one of Germany's bloodiest weekends of violence against non-Germans for months.

Turkish officials in Berlin, home to 140,000 ethnic Turks, planned to hold, together with leftist political parties, a silent march in the city centre yesterday evening to show, as one organiser put it, "our fear of the Nazi mob and disgust with the government" over the murders.

The three victims, aged 51, 14 and ten, and all related, were murdered in their sleep in two fires which took place at in their two multi-family homes. All three had lived in Germany for many years and the young girl was born there. One woman among the nine injured broke both her legs jumping from an upper floor to the street below, and a nine-month-old infant suffered from smoke inhalation.

The interior minister for the state of Schleswig-Holstein reported that members of the ethnic Turkish community in Mölln, described as well-integrated citizens, had been increasingly disturbed at threats received from right-wing extremists in the days before these attacks.

Several anonymous callers to the authorities later claimed responsibility for the killings, ending their calls with the words "Heil Hitler" and promising that their campaign of terror and violence against the Turkish community had only just begun. Police do not know if the callers were genuine, or simply showing solidarity with the attackers.

Meanwhile the German prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe took over control of the case from local authorities and imposed a blackout on official information, as a widespread manhunt began. Berlin is still recovering after a weekend of violence which included the fatal stabbing of one German man and the wounding of two companions in a deserted underground station in eastern Berlin. The assailants escaped, while the sole eyewitness, who escaped serious injury, described the killer as a man with short blonde hair and a jacket patch that read: "I am proud to be a German".

JOHN HOLLAND

Will you give £15 this Christmas to help save a child like Ellie?



To protect the child(ren) named in this appeal, I enclose my Cheque/Postal Order for: £15 £30 £45 £60 £100 £150 £200 £250 £300 £350 £400 £450 £500 £600 £700 £800 £900 £1000 £1100 £1200 £1300 £1400 £1500 £1600 £1700 £1800 £1900 £2000 £2100 £2200 £2300 £2400 £2500 £2600 £2700 £2800 £2900 £3000 £3100 £3200 £3300 £3400 £3500 £3600 £3700 £3800 £3900 £4000 £4100 £4200 £4300 £4400 £4500 £4600 £4700 £4800 £4900 £5000 £5100 £5200 £5300 £5400 £5500 £5600 £5700 £5800 £5900 £6000 £6100 £6200 £6300 £6400 £6500 £6600 £6700 £6800 £6900 £7000 £7100 £7200 £7300 £7400 £7500 £7600 £7700 £7800 £7900 £8000 £8100 £8200 £8300 £8400 £8500 £8600 £8700 £8800 £8900 £9000 £9100 £9200 £9300 £9400 £9500 £9600 £9700 £9800 £9900 £10000 £10100 £10200 £10300 £10400 £10500 £10600 £10700 £10800 £10900 £11000 £11100 £11200 £11300 £11400 £11500 £11600 £11700 £11800 £11900 £12000 £12100 £12200 £12300 £12400 £12500 £12600 £12700 £12800 £12900 £13000 £13100 £13200 £13300 £13400 £13500 £13600 £13700 £13800 £13900 £14000 £14100 £14200 £14300 £14400 £14500 £14600 £14700 £14800 £14900 £15000 £15100 £15200 £15300 £15400 £15500 £15600 £15700 £15800 £15900 £16000 £16100 £16200 £16300 £16400 £16500 £16600 £16700 £16800 £16900 £17000 £17100 £17200 £17300 £17400 £17500 £17600 £17700 £17800 £17900 £18000 £18100 £18200 £18300 £18400 £18500 £18600 £18700 £18800 £18900 £19000 £19100 £19200 £19300 £19400 £19500 £19600 £19700 £19800 £19900 £20000 £20100 £20200 £20300 £20400 £20500 £20600 £20700 £20800 £20900 £21000 £21100 £21200 £21300 £21400 £21500 £21600 £21700 £21800 £21900 £22000 £22100 £22200 £22300 £22400 £22500 £22600 £22700 £22800 £22900 £23000 £23100 £23200 £23300 £23400 £23500 £23600 £23700 £23800 £23900 £24000 £24100 £24200 £24300 £24400 £24500 £24600 £24700 £24800 £24900 £25000 £25100 £25200 £25300 £25400 £25500 £25600 £25700 £25800 £25900 £26000 £26100 £26200 £26300 £26400 £26500 £26600 £26700 £26800 £26900 £27000 £27100 £27200 £27300 £27400 £27500 £27600 £27700 £27800 £27900 £28000 £28100 £28200 £28300 £28400 £28500 £28600 £28700 £28800 £28900 £29000 £29100 £29200 £29300 £29400 £29500 £29600 £29700 £29800 £29900 £30000 £30100 £30200 £30300 £30400 £30500 £30600 £30700 £30800 £30900 £31000 £31100 £31200 £31300 £31400 £31500 £31600 £31700 £31800 £31900 £32000 £32100 £32200 £32300 £32400 £32500 £32600 £32700 £32800 £32900 £33000 £33100 £33200 £33300 £33400 £33500 £33600 £33700 £33800 £33900 £34000 £34100 £34200 £34300 £34400 £34500 £34600 £34700 £34800 £34900 £35000 £35100 £35200 £35300 £35400 £35500 £35600 £35700 £35800 £35900 £36000 £36100 £36200 £36300 £36400 £36500 £36600 £36700 £36800 £36900 £37000 £37100 £37200 £37300 £37400 £37500 £37600 £37700 £37800 £37900 £38000 £38100 £38200 £38300 £38400 £38500 £38600 £38700 £38800 £38900 £39000 £39100 £39200 £39300 £39400 £39500 £39600 £39700 £39800 £39900 £40000 £40100 £40200 £40300 £40400 £40500 £40600 £40700 £40800 £40900 £41000 £41100 £41200 £41300 £41400 £41500 £41600 £41700 £41800 £41900 £42000 £42100 £42200 £42300 £42400 £42500 £42600 £42700 £42800 £42900 £43000 £43100 £43200 £43300 £43400 £43500 £43600 £43700 £43800 £43900 £44000 £44100 £44200 £44300 £44400 £44500 £44600 £44700 £44800 £44900 £45000 £45100 £45200 £45300 £45400 £45500 £45600 £45700 £45800 £45900 £46000 £46100 £46200 £46300 £46400 £46500 £46600 £46700 £46800 £46900 £47000 £47100 £47200 £47300 £47400 £47500 £47600 £47700 £47800 £47900 £48000 £48100 £48200 £48300 £48400 £48500 £48600 £48700 £48800 £48900 £49000 £49100 £49200 £49300 £49400 £49500 £49600 £49700 £49800 £49900 £50000 £50100 £50200 £50300 £50400 £50500 £50600 £50700 £50800 £50900 £51000 £51100 £51200 £51300 £51400 £51500 £51600 £51700 £51800 £51900 £52000 £52100 £52200 £52300 £52400 £52500 £52600 £52700 £52800 £52900 £53000 £53100 £53200 £53300 £53400 £53500 £53600 £53700 £53800 £53900 £54000 £54100 £54200 £54300 £54400 £54500 £54600 £54700 £54800 £54900 £55000 £55100 £55200 £55300 £55400 £55500 £55600 £55



Lynne Truss

■ Thank goodness the castle was not insured, or our premiums would go through the roof

I sometimes think I imagined it, because nobody else seems to remember. Yet I am convinced that many years ago, when the world was new, there was a black-and-white advertisement on television in which a crudely drawn cartoon family took refuge inside an insurance document. It made a great impression on me at the time, perhaps because of the rather natty manner in which the said policy came flying out of the daddy's hands and then turned itself magically into a castellated stronghold, not unlike the Brunswick Tower at Windsor Castle. "Strong stuff this insurance," said clever daddy, bending out over the battlements and rapping twice (knock knock) on the mock-Norman edifice. It looked marvellous, honest, especially through the eyes of a six-year-old. "Get the strength of the insurance companies around you," said the voice-over at the end. And I vowed on the spot that I always would.

So the news on Friday that Windsor Castle was not insured came initially as a bit of a shock. When disasters strike our friends it is the first question we ask: "Were they insured? Oh, thank heavens for that." Only improvident people, we think, fail to clamber inside the policy castle and pull up the drawbridge. In fact now that it is commonplace to insure your property, life, trips abroad, credit cards and health (not to mention the confined mechanical goodwill of your washing machine), most people could probably build real walls out of their insurance stuff, thick enough to knock on.

So should Windsor Castle have been insured? Well, there are obvious reasons why it was not. But nobody should be under the illusion that a valid home protection policy for St George's Hall would have removed the tricky problem of who will pay up. The famous estimate tens of millions would simply have been slapped on our washing machine premiums, just like that. We have had a narrow escape then. I keep having visions of this archetypal man from the Pru patiently calling at Windsor like clockwork, first of every month, year after year. "Did you find a moment to glance at the literature?" he shouts through the booted door, only to be ritually rebuffed when the sharp end of a polo mallet is shoved through the letterbox, jabbing him in the abdomen. "Go away," he hears from inside, "push off." But thank goodness he never got in.

We have already reached the stage of insuring our insurance, or so it seems to me. But soon I expect they will exploit our hydra-headed fears by offering insurance against huge leaps in premium charges, brought about by massive one-off claims such as Windsor Castle. It is an obvious step. Last week I stood open-mouthed and gesticulating in an AA shop when, having reluctantly succumbed to the ultimate guard-us-against-all-evil (an emergency phone for the car), I was asked whether I wanted to pay extra for a three-year extended warranty. What? I said. Warranty? Were they implying that this phone might not work? I am buying this as insurance!" I protested. "Must I thus take out insurance on my insurance?" But my appeal made no impact on the AA woman, who merely explained for the third time that the warranty was an optional extra.

I was confused insurance with protection, I suppose. This is understandable when you remember that I have spent my entire adult life envisaging insurance policies as Norman keeps (knock knock), but it is also an easy mistake for anyone to fall into when words such as "cover" and "security" are regularly spotted in the vicinity. Insurance is just a crude, perverse form of gambling: basically, you stand on the kerb of life and bet good money that you won't make it across the road. And then, if somebody gets knocked down by a bus, you pay extra on the way back. And that's it. So the symbolism of the Brunswick Tower burning like a torch against the night sky had an additional dimension for me. I must admit, I kept expecting to see that clever old daddy appear on the flanking battlements, saying: "Strong stuff this (cough cough). Eh? What's that? What do you mean it's not insured?"

On and on and on?

THOSE OF John Major's friends who thought they would never see the day — and their numbers have grown — will celebrate the second anniversary of the prime minister's move to Number 10 Downing Street on Saturday.

Like his predecessor, Major is coy about celebrating anniversaries. He will spend the weekend quietly at Chequers, where a private lunch will be held on Sunday for Mencap. Norma Major's favourite charity. Those expected to raise a glass to the Majors include Richard Ryder, the chief whip, Graham Bright, the PM's parliamentary private secretary, Lord Rix of Whitehall, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and a cluster of the couple's friends from outside politics.

Elsewhere the celebrations will be more exuberant. In Huntingdon congratulations cards are already being dispatched to Number 10. Peter Brown, the Tory agent, says: "The prime minister will be with us next week and we will hold a suitable celebration then."

The champagne is already flowing at Number 18 Gayfie Street, Alan Duncan's pad, which was used as John Major's campaign

headquarters. Duncan, now MP for Rutland and Melton, is holding an open house for campaign workers, including Michael Howard, Francis Maude, Peter Lilley and Norman Lamont.

There will be no champagne in Lambeth, where Major was chairman of the housing committee in the 1970s. But Peter Golds, who introduced Major to Norma, has organised an anniversary card from his former council colleagues. "Champagne is not the Lambeth way," Golds says. "But a group of us plan to go to Brixton Road to the prime minister's favourite curry house and order a big take-away."

Baroness Thatcher is steering well clear of wakes and parties. She will be flying out of the country at the weekend on a speaking tour of the Far East. But she can take solace in the fact that Major has a long way to go before he beats her record. As Lord Archer says: "I will not be giving John a present until he has done at least 10 years."

Boning up

WHEN T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* is performed in Northamptonshire on Saturday night,

Throughout northern Europe opposition to Maastricht is still growing, writes Nicholas Ridley

When one considers what has happened to the Treaty of Maastricht over the last six months, it seems incredible that European leaders seem still determined to press on with it in Edinburgh next month.

The Danish rejection of the treaty in their referendum legally killed it; it needs unanimous ratification. Instead of accepting this, or waiting for a second and favourable referendum, EC leaders decided that they would all ratify, and put pressure on the Danes by threatening to proceed without them. This was bullying, and dubiously legal. They also vowed not to renegotiate any part of the treaty.

The Danes have now come up with a list of four major items which they want negotiated, and they insist furthermore that they should be legally binding. If ever there had to be a total renegotiation, this is it, because the four items amount to Denmark opting out of the heart of the treaty. EC leaders blandly say that they will consider doing this by adding "protocols" — although Jacques Delors has said that Denmark's requests are unacceptable.

So what answer is the Com-

A corpse at Edinburgh

munity going to give to the Danish demands, and when do we get it? More important, will the answer persuade the Danes to vote yes on the next occasion? The prospects look bleak to me. But surely we need the answers before we proceed?

The Danes are not the only ones who want to renegotiate the treaty. The Germans do too. It is ironic and irritating that Chancellor Kohl has been strongest in his refusal to contemplate any renegotiation, yet his own parliament has demanded, and been granted by his government, the "right" to opt out of the single currency, in order to preserve the Deutsche mark unsullied by lesser currencies.

There was no talk of renegotiation, or seeking the agreement of the other 11, just a decision to opt out.

So Germany, Britain and Denmark all want the right to opt out of the single currency, and will presumably do so. But they are three of the member states who will have to pay for

the single currency, through the structural funds and the so-called "cohesion fund". Between them, they would be paying the lion's share of large expenditure for the benefit of Greece, Ireland, Spain, Italy and Portugal. It is the prospect of all this money which makes those poorer member states so keen on Maastricht. Soon they will wake up to the fact that the future payers are melting away. Will they still be so keen then?

Over the summer public opinion, throughout northern Europe at least, has hardened visibly against the treaty. Following the Danish rejection, public opinion polls in Britain and Germany have shown consistent and large majorities against the treaty. In France the referendum result was a knife-edge 50.7 per cent in favour.

Ireland voted yes more decisively, but Ireland is a major beneficiary of Community funds. It is impossible to interpret all this in any other way than as a majority in the

northern states against the treaty. Yet this is simply to be ignored and brushed aside on the spurious argument that the people do not understand the treaty. Surely it should have their full-hearted consent?

Our own experience highlights the point. We are denied a referendum on the grounds that we traditionally take all decisions through our system of parliamentary democracy. It is perhaps no coincidence that we know the treaty would be decisively rejected if there were to be a referendum. Yet our parliamentary democracy has been corrupted and besmirched by the nastiest whipping ever heard of. Tory MPs were threatened with deliberately ruined careers, with the revelation of their extra-marital affairs, and denial of all assignments they might want. Pressure was put upon them in their constituencies and through their wives.

Even then the second vote on November 4 was going to be lost — democracy was about to give its true verdict. John Major then stooped so low as to make a major concession in private to three MPs, which persuaded them at the last moment to vote for the government.

He also says that if the Community improves its definition of "subsidiarity" it will help us, and the Danes, to understand the advantages of the treaty. Also, even if it proved possible to agree on a legal definition of that word, it would only underline the importance of the policy areas from which the governments of member states will be excluded.

For Europe's leaders to press on with this treaty, basing their case on invalid arguments which have not persuaded the people of Europe, is unacceptable and a recipe for future disaster. At the Edinburgh summit, John Major must use his presidency to insist on a new and better way forward for the Community.

Lord Ridley was Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury 1959-92.

ace said unequivocally, "the responsibility of the Royal Household." So it may seem that while the castle stands, it is theirs, but when it burns down, it is ours.

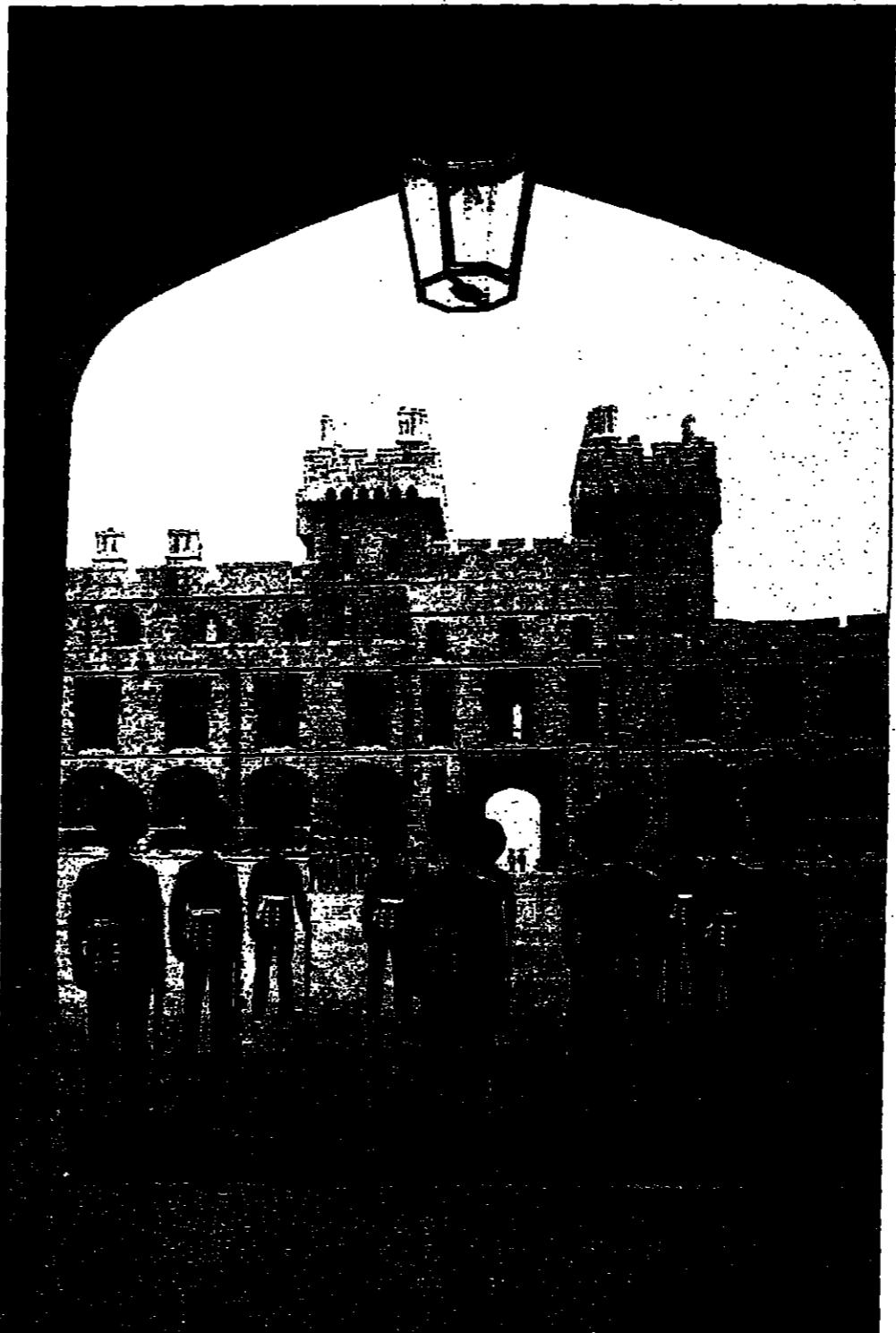
Some commentators resolve this with a quasi-theological mystery: to the extent that monuments like Windsor belong to the monarch, they also belong to us because the holder of the throne is a symbol of ourselves as a nation. But the crunch comes with the decision over who is to pay. Not because we are a relentlessly mean or materialistic society which measures everything by its cost. But because vague waffle about rights and ownership tend to dissolve magically when the bills come in.

Labour heritage spokesman, Mr Alyn Williams, asked Mr Brooke in the House yesterday whether he did not recognise that there was unease in the country at the idea that the entire cost should be met by government. Would he welcome a "contribution" from the royal family? He declined to comment.

Michael Trend, the Conservative MP for Windsor, has excoriated politicians for "making political mischief" over the fire. In a democracy, debating the future of our institutions does not count as "mischief". But this is perhaps another form of having it both ways. When the monarchy is put under examination in any way — even to the extent of wishing to outline more clearly its role and responsibilities — then it is a revered institution whose functions must never be questioned.

When it has problems which may arise precisely from the ambiguity and paradoxes inherent in its modern position, then it is a collection of individuals who must be permitted to run their private lives as they see fit — even if those private lives are being put under intolerable pressure.

This fire may indeed end up shedding more light than heat if the kinds of dissatisfaction and confusion which it brings to the surface are fairly discussed and not pushed aside as if they were tasteless or somehow impudent. For those who sympathise with the royal family as much as for those who criticise them, the sad events of this year culminating in the fire, ought not to be consigned to silence.



Private or public? A royal home only becomes public property when there are bills to be paid

help the cause of those who would support them. For the Queen to pay no taxes on her private wealth implies that she is not an ordinary citizen. But the fact that her accounts are now to be free from parliamentary scrutiny suggests that her expenditure is a private matter: that the monarch is not accountable in

the way generally thought proper for public figures in a democracy.

The fire has brought another example of this paradox to the fore. Buckingham Palace press spokesmen are standing by the statement quoted in the press on Sunday, that they had refused access to English Heritage

when it repeatedly requested permission to survey the areas of the castle being rewarmed and renovated. In a remarkably forthright statement, the palace is reported to have said, "Why should they [English Heritage] think they have access?" The building's fabric and what the buildings contain was, the pal-

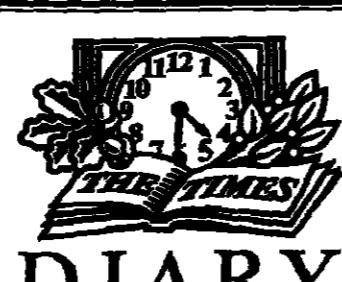
colm Wicks and Liberal Democrat Don Foster. They are supporting National Sleep Out and promoting the plight of the homeless but are allowing themselves the luxury of sleeping bags.

In bed with Bill

ISLINGTON Council may be in danger of losing its hard-won reputation for left-wing lunacy. Not content with having lost its leader to a firm of chartered accountants, it is now fighting to become the first British borough to twin with Bill Clinton's home state of Arkansas.

In the past the councillors, renowned for their support of minority causes, have forged links with left-wing politicians in Barbados and Grenada. But the idea of replacing the red flag over the town hall with the stars and stripes is gaining ground. Alan Barnard, agent to the Islington MP and shadow environment secretary Chris Smith, spent three weeks in Arkansas helping the Clinton campaign.

The idea has also gone down well with Joe Stimpson, an Islington Labour councillor who partnered Clinton on the squash courts at Oxford. Smith, who is heading for Washington to meet Al Gore's environmental team in a week's time, says he may raise the issue then.



Thomas à Becket will be occupying a front row seat. Or at least part of him will be.

The church of St Mary the Virgin at Whistlon, Northamptonshire, boasts one of the few relics of the martyr, a bone which is normally

kept in the church safe. It will be unveiled to the audience during the Oxford Dance Theatre's performance of the play.

The church, which has not been altered since it was consecrated in 1534 and still does not have electric lights, has had the relic for hundreds of years. The Rev David Johnson, who has just taken over the parish, says: "It only comes out on special occasions. I think this is one. Being a great fan of the play, I thought it would be novel to have Thomas in the audience with us."

Kimono-rippers

THE British have Dame Barbara Cartland and the Japanese have Uno Chiyu, who is 95 this week. But the doyenne of Japanese literature would have Dame Barbara's heroines reaching for the smelling salts. Uno has become one of Japan's leading literary figures by writing stormy love stories based upon her own entanglements. There is no sign, despite her age, that she is running out of material.

Love notes written in blood, lovers attempting suicide and endless passionate affairs are her stock in trade. To coincide with her birthday Pege Owen is publishing for the first time in English *The Story of A Single Woman* by Uno Chiyu. Owen says: "She is not in the best of



The Venerable George Cassidy, the Archdeacon of London, has just played host to Mark Hock, a pupil of Christ's Hospital, who has rediscovered an ancient privilege which allows any pupil "possessed of sufficient assurance" to ascend to the highest part of St Paul's Cathedral. "It has not happened before in living memory," says Cassidy, who is hoping that it does not lead to hordes of boys presenting themselves

from the Commons tonight. But the MPs will be bedding down in the comparative luxury of Dean's Yard in the Palace of Westminster, rather than the doorways of the Strand. David Pater, Tory MP for Westbury and a grandson of Harold Macmillan, will join fellow Tory Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, the Labour MPs Frank Field and Mal-





MAJOR'S PROGRESS

How to save Britain's EC presidency from "disaster"

After the euphoria of last year's Maastricht summit, Europe's hangover seems worse than it should. The aftershocks of Black Wednesday continue to ripple through the European monetary system; with each realignment, the dream of European monetary union recedes. The European Commission expects EC unemployment to rise to 11 per cent next year, with economic growth failing to no more than 1 per cent. And the British presidency, of course, is a disaster.

Of course, for the one certainty attaching to the rotting presidency of the EC is that shortly before the end of each country's six-month turn, other governments will start to mutter about the current president's incompetence, indecision or chaotic mismanagement. There is virtue in this competition to be the government that has done the best for Europe. But it has also led to summit decisions that are ill thought-out or premature, as each government strains every muscle to pull a respectable number of rabbits from the hat at the final summit.

This is what John Major should avoid, as he begins the ritual round of capitals prior to Edinburgh. Denmark's rejection of Maastricht, deepening recession and currency turmoil are commonly held to have dealt Britain a rough hand. The timetable has slipped on almost all Britain's known priorities for Europe, notably enlargement of the EC, a settlement of the Danish problem and negotiations on the EC's new budget. But what is far more important, and less widely remarked, is the way in which this year's events have conspired to reinforce the British vision of a Europe of competitive free trade and minimal intervention from the Brussels bureaucracy.

The further that EMU recedes in practice, the less urgent is the Maastricht treaty. France and Germany know they could kill the treaty dead by vetoing Denmark's proposals; if Edinburgh fails to solve the problem, it is hardly a disaster. By contrast,

Britain's EC partners were stung by public criticism that they wasted last month's Birmingham summit in theological debate on subsidiarity instead of addressing Europe's pressing economic problems. They need to show that the EC's leadership lives on the same planet as its people.

Mr Major can build on this by concentrating at Edinburgh on two achievable goals, and the orchestration of one piece of mood music. His first priority is to save French face over last week's farm trade deal, where a French veto could sabotage the far more important Gatt Uruguay round of trade talks. For this, he needs President Mitterrand's prior agreement that a vote is appropriate only when the entire Uruguay round package — from which France stands to gain heavily — is complete. The summit could then simply instruct the Commission to seek a Gatt deal by the year's end.

Edinburgh's second goal should be the conclusion of preparations for a single market by December 31. Opening for business is not enough. The EC's 282 single market regulations could too easily be ignored by some governments, abused by others. Britain should seek agreement on steps to prevent cheating.

For mood music, he will do well to try a British variation on Jacques Delors's "growth initiative". This grand design for investment in public works is unconvincing: the funds proposed would barely serve to improve London's Northern line. The right response is not to oppose it, however, as Britain did until this week, but to make economic growth the centrepiece of Edinburgh. A concerted growth strategy, based on targeted increases in capital spending by all EC members, could win broad support. Recovery in Europe is essential to recovery in Britain. It is also essential to the dream of European union. Mr Major could borrow a slogan from Bill Clinton in the weeks before Edinburgh: *the economy, stupid*.

DEATH IN LUBECK

Bonn's reaction must not be too little as well as too late

The German government yesterday expressed "outrage, bitterness and sorrow" at the deaths of three Turks, burned to death when neo-Nazis set fire to a house in a Turkish quarter of Lübeck. The words do not begin to describe the shame felt by most Germans at the unspeakable atrocity, with all its terrifying echoes of the past. Nor do they compensate for the inertia of the Bonn government in the face of xenophobic violence that has swept Germany, east and west, for the past year. The deaths of two women and a child, born in Germany, come in the wake of more than 1,800 attacks on foreign asylum-seekers.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government has watched the steady growth of right-wing violence, political extremism and even anti-Semitism — especially in former East Germany — with an almost inexplicable paralysis. A botched display of democratic outrage in the recent official Berlin demonstration was intended to show solidarity with the victims. But not until last week did the interior ministers of the 16 states meet to work out a common strategy against the neo-Nazis. Only now is the government looking for evidence — clear as can be — that such organised thuggery constitutes a threat to German democracy as deadly as that posed by the Red Army Faction and other extreme leftist groups. Only now is there talk of banning extremist parties and passing exemplary sentences on those who attack hostels.

Where is the decisive address to the nation from the chancellor? Why has he not visited one of the firebombed hostels, received

representatives of the ethnic minorities now cowering in unprotected hostels? Why has it been left to President von Weizsäcker to voice the fears of Germany's neighbours that there is little neo about the neo-Nazis?

It is not only Herr Kohl's government that shares the blame for inaction, however. The Social Democrats, as exaggerated compensation for the totalitarian past, have refused to countenance the tough measures need to stem such violence. They have resisted a tightening of the law on demonstrations, fearing that this could be used against the left. They have quibbled about when neo-Nazi salutes with the hand flat or the fingers making a V-sign are a violation of the law. Germany's vaunted federal system may be a safeguard against dictatorial centralism. But the lack of proper police co-operation between the *Länder* has made it hard to fight the far right on a nationwide scale. And in east Germany local politicians and the courts have been inordinately lenient in dealing with extremism. The long SPD resistance to any change in the constitution has allowed the influx of asylum-seekers to build up to levels that are now causing a social explosion.

The government must now look again at its reluctance to ban extremist parties. It must involve the federal government more decisively in the prosecution of extremists. It must persuade state governments to implement immediately the decision they took to deploy more police to protect people at risk. And it must send out the message, to Germans and to the world, that Germans will not tolerate Nazism. Never again.

THE WISDOM OF YOUTH

Judges should be chosen before they qualify for a free bus pass

"Now I am a judge, I shall never, never budge," is often sung in the finale of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*. The sentiment is not as fanciful as many uttered by Gilbert's characters. A survey just published by *Solicitors Journal* finds 86 per cent believing the retirement age for judges should be earlier than 75 with most favouring either 60 or 65.

But the answer is not a simple one. At the same time as judges are considered too old, the shortage of High Court judges is described as "scandalous" by the Lord Chief Justice. If judges were to retire earlier, the pressure on the courts would intensify. Can the circle be squared?

The Lord Chancellor's department, which appoints judges, is forever bemoaning the shortage of suitable candidates for the bench. Yet the pool from which it chooses is kept artificially small. In practice, to qualify for a judgeship, a candidate has to be a high-flying barrister, to have been a Queen's Counsel for some years, to be thought a good chap by his seniors and peers and, preferably, to be white, middle-class and male. Those doing the selecting tend to pick others in their own image, a process that is naturally described as "appointing on merit".

Although the government brought in legislation nearly 18 months ago to open the High Court bench to solicitors too, not a single solicitor has yet been appointed. One of the qualifications for being a judge is supposed to be experience of advocacy, yet it is hard to believe that only those who have

spent their lives being partial are qualified for a job that above all requires fairmindedness.

The first prerequisite ought to be a good legal mind. That is present in solicitors as well as barristers. There is no shortage of clever lawyers in this country, only of middle-aged barristers willing to give up a huge income for a large one. If the Lord Chancellor were to look equally kindly on solicitors, his pool would immediately widen.

It would widen still further were he to consider younger candidates. Youth, or indeed early middle age, should be no disqualification for dispensing justice. The magistrate's bench has justices in their 20s and 30s. The prime minister himself is in his 40s. These jobs involve responsibility and good judgment. Why then do most judges not start their careers until their 50s or 60s?

Young lawyers should be able to aim at one of three pinnacles: a partner in a solicitors' firm, a high-earning QC, or a judge. If candidates could start earlier without having to spend time on all the lower judicial rungs, the Lord Chancellor would find it easier to appoint women and ethnic minorities, since they are better represented among younger lawyers.

Judges would then have more in common with the people on whom they pass sentence. They would start with a sharper mind and would spend longer in the job. Most important, they would shake off the fuddy-duddy, out-of-touch image that has deviated their profession. A 35-year-old judge might even have heard of the Beatles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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How to restore Windsor Castle and who should pay

From Mr George Ferguson

Sir, It was predictable that there should be political calls for the Queen to pay for the repair of Windsor Castle. It is only reasonable however that HM government should act as the guardians of our national heritage's most remarkable monuments.

Now that so much has been lost, no reproduction can quite catch the spirit of the age in which a work of art or craft was created, although it would be wrong to imply that the skills no longer exist. There are many fine craftsmen in this country, but my fear is that the deep recession in the construction industry is destroying the tradition of apprenticeship so essential to the maintenance and development of these skills.

It seems to me that there is now an opportunity at Windsor for the Royal Family to put into practice some of the admirable principles which they have so successfully encouraged elsewhere.

Their contribution could be to launch a trust for the purpose of turning the repair of Windsor Castle into a teaching laboratory for the conservation of materials and the practice of fine traditional crafts. Then maybe one day we shall be able to look back to the fire as having been a disaster out of which we gained more for the future than we lost from the past.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FERGUSON
(Managing Director),
Ferguson Mann (architects),
Royal Colloquy,
18 Great George Street,
Bristol, Avon.

From Mrs F. Leon-Smith

Sir, I cannot see any reason why the Queen should not herself pay to repair damage caused to those parts of the castle which are not open to the public.

Yours faithfully,
F. LEON-SMITH.
The Niven Suite, The Mansion,
Ottershaw Park, Surrey.

From Mr Evan M. Davies

Sir, Reporting the fire at Windsor Castle, the BBC Television newsreader last Friday evening described the damage and said: "It is likely the taxpayer will have to foot the bill."

People interviewed daily almost invariably comment that all could be

right if the government gave them more funds. Perhaps the BEC should have said: "If the taxpayer foots the bill."

Yours faithfully,
EVAN M. DAVIES,
31 Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey.

From Dr John Burchmore

Sir, I am encouraged to hear that her Majesty's government has promised that the castle will be fully restored but I, and I am sure others, would like to contribute towards the cost of some aspect of the restoration, both as a way of showing our pride in our national heritage and as a way of declaring our loyalty and affection to our Sovereign at this time.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURCHMORE.
Quarr Hill House, Quarr Hill,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.

From Mrs P. G. Glover

Sir, If the government is to fund repairing Windsor Castle, could not it be made a stipulation in contracts, for the multiplicity of trades involved, that a proportion of those employed be young people taken off the unemployed register, or perhaps on apprenticeships?

Yours faithfully,
PRISCILLA GLOVER.
Rossie Mills House,
Rossie Braes,
By Montrose, Angus.

From Mr F. Leon-Smith

Sir, I cannot see any reason why the Queen should not herself pay to repair damage caused to those parts of the castle which are not open to the public.

Yours faithfully,
F. LEON-SMITH.
The Niven Suite, The Mansion,
Ottershaw Park, Surrey.

From Mr David Catton

Sir, It seems premature for the government to offer to pay for the repairs to Windsor Castle. We are told it was deliberate policy not to have insurance cover because of the cost. If the damage were found to have been caused by negligence on behalf of the contractors, for example, surely they would have been insured to cover public liability. This is a normal business precaution and one which most companies have in place to protect themselves and their employees in such cases.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CATTON.
Cobblesstones, Gustard Wood,
Wheatheathampstead, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Ronald Bowlby

Sir, It would be comforting to see in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement (report, November 13) a new long-term economic policy for meeting housing need. Sadly, a close reading of the text shows scant evidence of this.

The £750 million boost to housing associations consists largely of public money brought forward from funds earmarked for 1993-4 and, to a greater extent than in the past, private money will have to be used as well.

The net result will be higher rents which will make housing even less affordable than it is now for many people, especially those with low earnings.

Local authorities will no doubt welcome the ability to use, over the next 12 months, 100 per cent of

From Ms Frances Halahan

Sir, Many people have lamented the tragic loss at Windsor Castle but expressed relief at the saving of most of the paintings, with which I am sure all would agree. But paintings, however valuable, are only a small section of the visual arts and, in this case, of what has been exposed to loss and damage.

Too little mention is generally made of the architectural ornament: mouldings and carvings, the early looking glasses, their frames, the locks, door knobs, chandeliers, girandoles, wallpaper or hangings, decorative ceilings, fireplaces and so on. Frequently even sculpture is ignored.

The artists and craftsmen who created all that can be included in the fields of decorative and applied art are often unknown and unsung but were able to exhibit skill and sensitivity equal to those of the painters.

The need for restoration in this case should not cause us to overlook the conservators who work with, say, furniture, sculpture, clocks, plaster ceilings, ceramics or books, as opposed to those who work with paintings.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES HALAHAN
(Conservation consultant),
52 Boscombe Road, W12.

From Dr Bruce Marsden

Sir, Sir Roy Strong has contended that the Windsor Castle fire represented the greatest heritage loss of this century. The burning down of the Crystal Palace in the Thirties may have a stronger claim.

I hope English Heritage does not simply replace what has been irretrievably lost by reproduction, fake history, and that the opportunity is grasped to acknowledge the fire. Future generations should be able to realise its extent by means of contemporary interiors within the restored fabric.

A seamless and mindless replacement (which I fear will occur) would not have been countenanced by an earlier age. Perhaps the powers that were at that time had more confidence and greater courage than we tend to show now.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE MARSDEN.
Marsden Architecture
and Planning,
35-37 Alfred Place, WC1.

From the Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference

Sir, Your education correspondent rightly raised some of the concerns of those in the teaching profession about the publication of examination results for comparative purposes (report, November 18). The current exercise by the Department for Education is not better, and in some respects much worse, than those undertaken by various newspapers in recent years.

This explains why independent schools, whose results have been already subject to substantial scrutiny, were less than enthusiastic about this particular scheme and remain hostile to the whole business of publishing league tables.

Only those children whose fifteenth or seventeenth birthdays occurred in the chosen (2-month) period had their results recorded. As a result many children who were taking the examinations early, and these are usually the academically most able, were excluded. In some subjects in some independent schools such candidates accounted for over 30 per cent of the entry; and this is not a problem confined to independent schools.

Moreover, there are many young people who for good reasons are taking examinations over-age. Along with those candidates who leave school after taking examinations early, their results will never be reported.

The DFE has promised to look at this aspect of its reporting again. We strongly urge that reporting should relate to the school year (not the pupil's age) and in the meantime advise those who have read the publication to apply a proper scepticism.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN ANTHONY.
Secretary,
Headmasters' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester.

From Mr Michael Willcox

Sir, The government's objectives must now be clear: to ensure that educational funds are channelled into the areas where they are most needed.

The most deserving schools are easy to find. They appeared at the bottom of the league tables in today's *Times*.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WILLCOX.
58 Albert Road West,
Bolton, Lancashire.

From Mr Simon T. Grice

Sir, I have a short contract to work at a European research establishment in Switzerland, but I am being paid by a British university in pounds sterling into a bank account in the UK. In July the research establishment paid the university a lump sum, corresponding to four months' salary, converted from Swiss francs.

Every month I transfer my salary from my UK bank account to Switzerland. Since July the pound has fallen from 2.5 SF to about 2.1, so when I transferred my salary last month I lost approximately 16 per cent.

The UK and the Swiss banks do not have it and neither do the university or the research establishment. I do not have it either, so where is it?

Yours sincerely,
SIMON GRICE.
Chez Salma Alshamsy,
3 Rue des Hautains,
01630 St-Genis-Pouilly, France.

From Mr Gyles Brandreth

November 20.

Europe's bad press

From Mr Gyles Brandreth, MP for City of Chester (Conservative)

Sir, Your diary reports (November 23) that a new EC directive will result in "a ban on the serving of the Navy's giant Christmas puddings in the traditional way — with a wooden ear" because it's unhygienic. I am sure it is unhygienic but I am equally sure that a determined Royal Navy will continue to get away with it.

Spreading word about Euro-lunacy may be good sport, but is it always responsible journalism? Recently I saw a television news report claiming that another EC directive would oblige our fishermen to wear hairnets

and showing a fisherman in a hairnet.</

NEWS

EC seeks £50bn carrot for recovery

■ Europe needs to spend some £50 billion on big capital projects if it is to drag itself out of recession and overcome unemployment and social unrest, Henning Christoffersen, the EC finance commissioner, told EC finance ministers.

The money, to be borrowed on international markets, should go on communications and transport networks, and he urged the Community to contribute £5 billion to a special investment fund. He hoped it would encourage a similar contribution from private interests. Pages 1, 2, 16, 17

Violent Berlin protest after killings

■ A Berlin demonstration in protest at the killings of three Turks — two women and a child — turned violent as left-wing youths throwing stones clashed with riot police in the mainly Turkish Kreuzberg district of the city. Pages 1, 15, 17, 20

Windsor Castle bill

The government is to meet the cost of restoring Windsor Castle in the face of continuing pressure from some Labour MPs to force the Queen to contribute to a bill that is likely to come to tens of millions of pounds. Pages 1, 3

£160m drug seized

Detectives and Customs officers seized 1.1 tonnes of cocaine worth £160 million, the largest drug haul made in Britain, after armed officers stormed an oil rig support vessel on the Thames a few miles downstream from Tower Bridge. Page 1

Maastricht bill hint

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, disclosed to the Commons foreign affairs committee that the Bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty might need to be changed to bring in possible concessions to the Danes. Page 2

Danger in toys

Parents tempted by the recession to buy cheap imitations of well-known toys for Christmas were warned yesterday that some fakes could be potentially dangerous. Page 4

Cancer warning

Damage to the ozone layer will result in five million cases of cancer and 70,000 deaths in the United States alone in the next century unless ozone-destroying chemicals are phased out quickly. William Reilly, Head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, said. Page 12

Bias blamed for lack of female judges

■ In the wake of a survey finding that 65 per cent feel "judges are out of touch with everyday life and everyday people", and that 80 per cent favoured more female judges, the shortage of women in the senior ranks will be blamed today on bias at all levels of the profession in a report commissioned by the Bar and the Lord Chancellor's department. Page 4



A child places flowers outside the house where three Turks died in racially-inspired arson in Moelln, near Hamburg. Pages 1, 15, 17

Paris plays for time

As French farmers staged angry protests against American interests, the Mitterrand administration signalled that it would try to defuse a EC crisis over agricultural trade by playing for time and seeking compensation within the Community. Page 2

Mafia-Colombia link

American and European anti-drug officials believe the Italian Mafia has forged an alliance with the Colombian cocaine cartels to supply an expanding European market, in return for assisting the Colombians to break into the New York heroin market. Page 3

Haitian influx

Tens of thousands of Haitians are expected to make fresh attempts to reach the United States after Bill Clinton's January 20 inauguration, presenting him with an immediate crisis largely of his own making. Page 11

Ankara peace effort

Amid its already strong calls for military intervention, Turkey has organised a one-day conference of all Balkan states in Ankara to try to increase pressure for an end to the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Page 12

Democracy urged

King Husain of Jordan, who has legalised political parties after a 36-year ban, called for the introduction of pluralism and democracy in Iraq, the most brutal Arab dictatorship. Page 8

Soft approach

Chris Eubank, the world super-middleweight champion, said he is "taking a softer approach. I want to be more accessible". Page 40

SPORT

£20,000 fine: The Football League fined Barnet £50,000 for failing to keep proper financial records and for irregular payments to players. Stan Flashman, the club chairman, allegedly assaulted cameramen before and after the seven-hour hearing. Page 40

Prop power: Injuries have given the England rugby league side an experimental feel, with two prop forwards drafted into the starting line-up to face Wales at Swansea on Friday. Page 36

Gillian Shephard, employment minister, has been appointed to EastEnders for inspiration in her training revolution. Page 4

Colin McRae

Colin McRae of Scotland won five of ten stages and led by two seconds at Chester, end of the British RAC Rally. Page 40

Jimmy Knapp

Jimmy Knapp, of the RMT transport union, announced his suspension of the London Underground strike due tomorrow. Page 3

Breaking point: The royal institute set up to promote good management practice across the public sector is expected to slip quietly into liquidation next month. Page 28

tenant chasing

How do you make tenants pay? A look at new council strategies. Page 28

Music

It is time to reassess the British composer Henry Purcell. His tercentenary is not due until 1995, but celebrations have already begun. Page 29

Cinema

In the Thirties and Forties several operatic divas made successful outings as cinema stars. David Robinson previews a short season featuring Lily Pons, Rita Stevens and Grace Moore at the National Film Theatre from tonight. Page 31

Book

A posthumous biography of the concert promoter Bill Graham offers an alternative history of the rock counterculture. Page 31

Television review

Catholics and Sex (Channel 4). Page 31

Not many who inform on the IRA live to tell the tale, and even fewer give interviews. *Inside Story Special* (BBC 1, 10.25). Page 39

Major's progress

A concerted growth strategy, based on targeted increases in capital spending by all EC members, could win broad support. Recovery in Europe is essential to recovery in Britain. It is also essential to the dream of European union. Page 17

Death in Lubeck

The German government must look again at its reluctance to ban extremist parties. And it must send out the message, to Germans and to the world, that Germans will not tolerate Nazism. Never again. Page 17

The wisdom of youth

If judges were appointed younger, they would have more in common with the people on whom they pass sentence. Most important, they would shake off the fuddy-duddy, out-of-touch image that has bedevilled their profession. Page 17

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

When one considers what has happened to the Treaty of Maastricht over the last six months, it seems incredible that European leaders seem still determined to press on with it in Edinburgh. Page 16

JANET DALEY

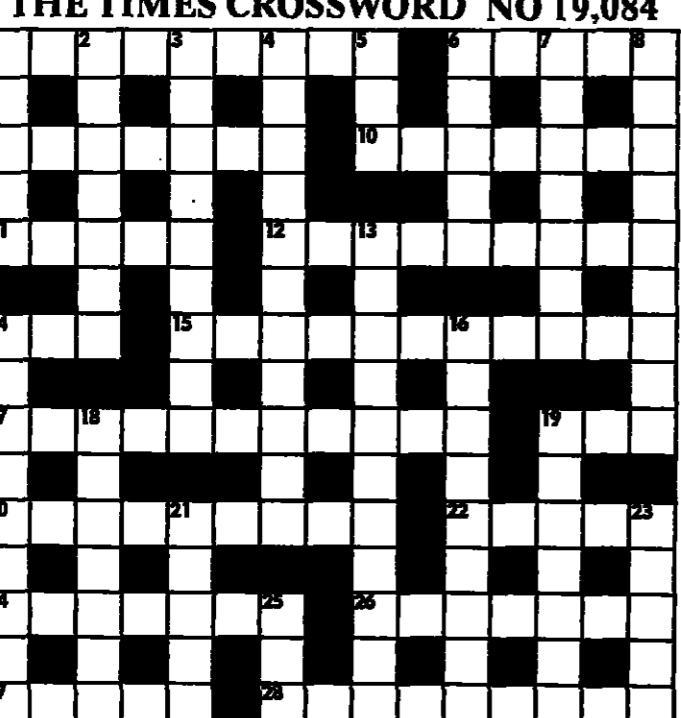
While no one would wish to be hard-hearted about the distress which the royal family must feel, it seems peculiarly absurd to liken the monarch to a suburban matron returning home to find the roof over her head gone and favourite possessions destroyed. Page 16

LYNN TRUSS

Nobody should be under the illusion that a valid home protection policy for St George's Hall, Windsor, would have removed the tricky problem of who will pay up. The tens of millions would simply have been slapped on our premiums, just like that. Page 16

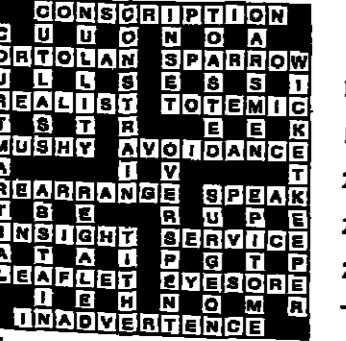
Suggestions on how best Windsor Castle should be restored and who should foot the bill. Page 17

The quarrel now is not between France and the United States, but between France and its European partners that support this settlement. The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,084**ACROSS**

- 1 Window fitment, ceramic — something one just cannot appreciate (5, 4)
- 6 Money bulking large in Africa and Asia (5)
- 9 Very active group of police holding a crowd back (7)
- 10 Back and tail uncommonly sore (7)
- 11 You'll need to coach the coaches (5)
- 12 Maiden rescued along with City Father (8)
- 14 What you might see in ire? Definitely? (3)
- 15 I sense Latin translation to be unnecessary (11)
- 17 Serene? No, much earlier (6, 2, 3)
- 19 Bats almost scored (3)
- 20 Rich man's funny dog caught rodent (9)
- 22 It's very pleasant with reduction of sound (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,083



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INADVERTENCE
- REARANGE SPEAK**
TBEE RUPPE
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LEAFLET EYESORE
IEHNOOM
INADVERTENCE

Concise Crossword, page 40

WEATHER FORECAST

For the latest regional by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex 701
Donet-Hants & IOW 702
Devon & Cornwall 704
West Midlands & Shrops 705
Bedf, Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708
Wales, Gwent & Gwent 709
Shrop, Herefs & Warks 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
London & South East 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Cymru 715
W. N. England 716
N. & S. Wales & Dales 717
N.E. England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S. West Scotland 720
W. Central Scotland 721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders 722
E. Central Scotland 723
Scotland & Highlands 724
N.W. Scotland 725
Orkney, Shetland & N. Ireland 727

Weatherfax is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

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London & SE traffic, roadworks 731
C. London (within N & S Circs) 731
M-ways/M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Derford T 733
M-ways/roads M25-T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks 737

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London & SE traffic, roadworks 7

ARTS 29-31

Purcell: why the party is starting three years early

LAW 32-35

Spotlight turns on three cases of life and death

SPORT 36-40

Flashman's Barnet are fined £50,000

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT ON TUESDAY
Page 28

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THE TIMES 2

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1992

BUSINESS TODAY
COMEBACK


The latest currency turbulence raises questions on the timing of the Italian lira's return to the ERM
Page 25

COOL DOWN

The turmoil in the coal industry has caused the builders of gas powered stations to defer some projects
Page 22

NUMBER UP


About 500 Barclays branches are set to disappear from the high street over the next three years
Page 23

LAW TIMES


A multi-disciplinary mix of court members would help family justice. Paula Davies suggests
Page 33

THE POUND

US dollar 1.150 (-0.0052)
German mark 2.4266 (+0.0042)
Exchange index 78.6 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2034.3 (-1.6)
FT-SE 100 2722.9 (-9.5)
New York Dow Jones 3231.95 (+4.59)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge Closed

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%
London Interbank: 7%
Commercial Banks: 6%
US Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3%
London Treasury Bills: 3.23-3.22%
Eurobonds 100%+100%*

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 1.1517 C \$ 1.5185
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National Grid cuts 700 jobs as 'dash for gas' peters out

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE "dash for gas" in power generation is petering out as companies cancel or defer projects in response to rising gas prices and uncertainty over the government's energy review.

But the slowdown will come too late to prevent gas plants eating into the market for coal, one of the factors blamed for British Coal's plans to close 31 pits with 30,000 jobs lost.

Four projects to build gas-fired power stations, with capacity totalling 2,213 mw, have been cancelled recently. National Grid Company said yesterday. A similar number, with capacity of 3,771 mw, have been deferred.

David Jefferies, chairman of NGC, said he now believed the surplus of generating capacity in England and Wales would peak in the winter of 1996/7 at 32 per cent. Although that is ten points higher than the typical plant margin of comparable national power generation systems, it represents a very sharp

cut on previous NGC predictions. In the past, NGC has suggested that theoretically, surplus capacity could reach 58 per cent, but the cancellations and deferrals have coincided with an accelerating programme of coal plant closures by existing generators.

NGC, owned by the 12 regional power supply companies, said 1,256 mw of gas plant had already been completed. Another 8,745 mw was under construction. But "the market is reacting to coal crisis," it said. "People are having second thoughts."

NGC is extending its job-shedding in response to a new four-year price cap imposed by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, with effect from next April. RPI inflation minus 3 per cent. "That is an extremely tough target," said Mr Jefferies. Without technological advances to exploit, cutting jobs was the best way to achieve savings. The company plans to shed a

further 700 employees by the end of March 1994, to a total of 5,000. Restructuring and redundancies are expected to cost £40 million this year.

NGC is talking to three American telephone companies seeking to become its partner in plans to install a high-quality bulk telephone network beside its power cables. Telecom Electric, a new company, has been formed. It will be chaired by Gordon Owen, former chief executive at Cable & Wireless's Mercury subsidiary, and the chief executive will be David Day, previously a BT director. TE will invest £100 million over the next 18 months.

In the half-year to September, NGC's turnover rose 1.7 per cent, to £666 million, despite a 0.3 per cent dip, to 117.5 terawatt hours, in electricity consumption. Pre-tax profits rose 7.3 per cent to £26.1 million. Dividends to shareholder companies rose 10.5 per cent to £4.2 million.



Turning down the gas: John Uttley, finance director, left, and David Jefferies

Rights boost Anglo-Irish Bank

ANGLO-IRISH Bank, the Dublin commercial bank, raised pre-tax profits by 1.3 per cent to £17.7 million (£6.7 million) in the year to end-September.

It did so with the help of an £1.26 million rights issue a year ago. The bank's refusal to

expand its loan book aggressively meant that earnings fell 2.3 per cent to £15.09p a share. The final dividend is being held at 17.2p a share, to make £13.36p for the full year (Neil Bennett writes).

Gerry Murphy, Anglo's chairman, said the bank is

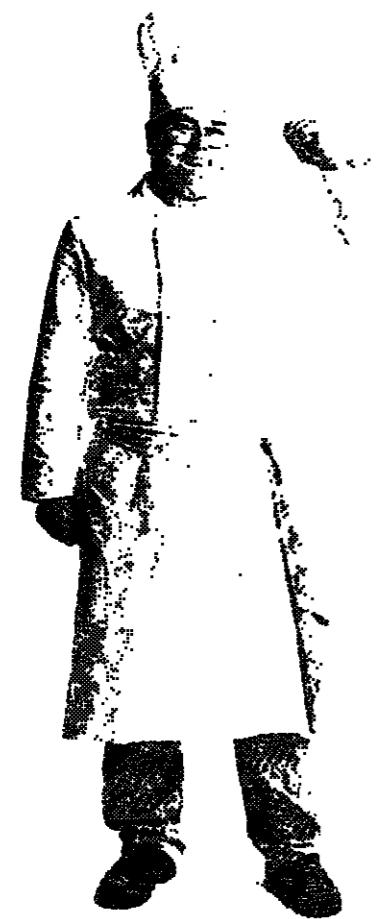
withdrawing from stockbroking in Ireland. Lending in Ireland remains the bank's main market, and advances grew by £16.3 million to £151.3 million. The bank had a loss of £16.1 million in Britain, partly due to high bad debt provisions.

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BUPA

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cost increase depresses Stock Exchange income

INCOME of the London Stock Exchange fell by £6 million to £94.5 million in the first six months of the financial year, due to lower settlement and new-issue volumes and the transfer of the traded-options market from the exchange to Liffe.

Over the same period, however, total costs rose by £5.9 million, mainly because of feasibility studies on a new trading system. Another factor was that spending on the exchange's Taurus paperless settlement system increased to £13.5 million, near the expected peak.

In the first half of the year, the London Stock Exchange still managed to make a marginal profit of £495,000, against £13.8 million at the same stage a year earlier, but Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, the exchange's chairman, said that there was again likely to be a deficit for the full year, which would be slightly higher than last year's £8.2 million.

ShareLink, the independent execution-only stockbroker, is to spend £1.25 million on computers and software to increase its capacity to handle the business of private clients.

Hewetson cuts payout

HEWETSON, the Hull flooring-products and building materials group, has reduced its interim dividend to 5p (1.6p) after another difficult trading period. Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-September fell to £476,000 (£703,000) on turnover of £14.3 million (£19.2 million). Undiluted earnings per share were 2.09p (4.6p). Interest charges have been reduced and gearing has fallen to 28 per cent (48 per cent). Alan Marsh, former joint managing director of Hewetson Floors, resigned in July. Bernard Murphy was appointed finance director in August.

Allen takes a tumble

ALLEN, the property and construction group, saw pre-tax profits fall to £860,000 (£2.01 million) in the six months to end-September. Turnover was £25.1 million (£31.4 million). Earnings per share were 2.45p (5.88p). The interim dividend has been maintained at 1.65p a share, and the board intends to recommend a final dividend of 3.35p a share, making a maintained total of 5p for the year. The shares fell 20p to 57p in September after a warning that interim profits would be "materially" lower. Yesterday, the shares were unchanged at 56p.

Advance by Diploma

DIPLOMA, the electronics and building components group, reports pre-tax profits for the 53 weeks ended September up from £14.5 million to £16.6 million on a turnover down from £141.9 million to £132.3 million. Net cash holdings at the year-end totalled £26.3 million (£26.5 million). The final dividend is raised from 6.5p to 7p a share, making 9.75p (8.75p) for the year. Profits from electronics were £8.4 million (£6.2 million), though building components profits were marginally weaker at £6 million (£6.2 million). The shares rose 23p to 345p.

Capita wins contract

CAPITA Group, the company that specialises in providing management services to the public sector, has won a five-year contract worth £15 million to operate Kent County Council's mainframe computer and data network. The contract was won by competitive tender. Capita will create a multi-purpose business centre at the Kings Hill business park, West Malling, near Maidstone, creating 150 jobs in addition to the 50 Kent county council computer staff who are being transferred to Capita.

Chemex turns in a profit

BY GEORGE SIVELL

CHEMEX, the environmental-analysis group formed in 1987, turned in its first full-year profit yesterday of £52,083 before tax for the 12 months to September 30.

The profit compares to a loss of £786,828 during the previous year and puts earnings per share at 0.07p against losses of 1.75p. However, the group will need High Court approval for a balance sheet restructuring before it is in a position to pay a dividend when profits allow.

Chemex, which specialises in measuring contaminants, is looking forward to next year when the lower pound is expected to help overseas sales, at present about 25 per cent of business. A move to cheaper premises is expected to bring further cost reductions.

The annual meeting, due on December 16, is intended to be adjourned until January 14 — after publication of the annual report and reconstruction proposals on December 21. The shares rose 0.25p to 3.5p yesterday.

Marling looks to expand

BY OUR CITY STAFF

MARLING, the industrial fabrics group, is bouncing back from losses and has announced, with news of a restructuring, that it is looking at possible acquisitions in industrial webbing and narrow fabrics. Marling promised shareholders yesterday that acquisitions would only be pursued where they met the group's criteria of positive cash generation and enhancement of earnings per share growth.

Marling made £659,000 before tax in the six months to end-September, as anticipated at the time of the £1.8 million rights issue in June. This is an improvement on the £593,000 made in the previous half year and a full year loss of almost £12 million.

Unlike last year, there is no interim dividend, but Marling says it intends to pay a full-year dividend. Earnings in the half year were 0.57p a share, against 0.86p of losses in the first half of last year.

David Abel Smith, the chief executive, said he was optimistic about the group's future.

GOVERNO DE SÃO PAULO CONSTRUINDO UM FUTURO MELHOR

THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE INVITATION TO BID 8880/92

ELECTROMECHANICAL EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR CANOAS I AND CANOAS II POWER PLANTS

The date for receipt of documentation and proposals is postponed to December 15, 1992, at same place and time.

Administrative Directorate
Open Capital Company
C.G.C. 60.933.603/0001-78

CESP

SECRETARIA
DE ENERGIA E
SANEAMENTO

From rearguard to vanguard

With one bound, the Auditing Practices Board has leapt from the rearguard in the debate over corporate governance to the vanguard of reform. Its paper on *The Future Development of Auditing* reverses the traditional defence that the public expects too much of auditors. It concludes that auditors are largely to blame for the expectations gap and that they should close it by taking responsibility for what investors and the wider public want them to do. The proposals are sufficiently ahead of the game to pre-empt suggestions from elsewhere of new elements in company accounts that the auditors would have to vet.

The more radical thinking comes less in these ambitious and impressive proposals than in the ideas of how companies and the profession might be governed, which are intended to reopen debate. These represent the surfacing on an undercurrent of private thinking in the profession and also, perhaps, the choice of non-accountants to lead this agenda-setting. If anything like these proposals are accepted, the auditing arm of accountancy firms would become the engine of their growth instead of loss-leader. Accountants would have a strong argument for limiting their exposure to spiralling liability claims, and would see their combination of advice and audit for the same company retained.

No wonder leaders of the profession rushed to praise the initiative. It may seem radical, but Bill Morrison of KPMG, the chairman of the APB, is a man they can trust. The possibility of audit governance being brought together in something like the Financial Reporting Council operates for setting and enforcing accounting standards, perhaps even becoming part of the FRC, seems to hold few terrors. The key to the APB's agenda, however, is that it requires much greater reform elsewhere. In particular, it sees the reliance of the initial Cadbury proposals on a greater role for non-executive directors as inadequate and points towards some form of two-tier board as the most logical way to bring shareholders' influence to bear within companies. Others must pick up that hot potato.

Vanishing trade

Although October's trade gap was slightly narrower than expected, the Treasury will doubtless be relieved by the temporary disappearance of the monthly trade figures between January and July next year. Because of the abolition of Europe's fiscal frontiers, information on intra-European trade will not be ready for publication until the middle of next year. The hiatus could not have been better timed.

That is precisely the time when the notorious "J-curve" effect of devaluation will be doing its greatest damage to Britain's trade balance, initially boosting the sterling value of imports (most of which are priced in foreign currencies). The competitive benefits for export and import volumes will come through only six to nine months later. How convenient that full trade figures will disappear during precisely the scary period before the "J-curve" turns up.

Better still, the absence of figures for intra-European trade should temporarily suppress the symptoms of the impending recession in Germany and continental Europe on British exporters. No news will not, however, be entirely good news. The Central Statistical Office will continue publishing monthly figures for Britain's trade outside Europe throughout next year. But the figures will all be in money terms, with no estimates of export and import volume so beneficial early effects of devaluation on trade volumes will not be evident. Meanwhile, the disagreeable operation of the J-curve will be all too visible in the value of Britain's trade outside Europe.

Wolfgang Münchau says that despite the latest realignment it is only a question of when, not whether, Italy rejoins the ERM

Nothing fuels expectations of a realignment in the exchange-rate mechanism more than a realignment itself. This is only too familiar tale unfolded again yesterday, a day after the devaluation of the peseta and the escudo, when the markets put the boot into the Irish punt and the Danish krone. Ireland's decision to raise overnight rates to an absurd level of 30 per cent to defend the indefensible, gave rise to an eerie sense of *déjà vu*: the protagonists may have changed, but the mad game remains the same.

One might want to think that Britain and Italy must be glad not to have to put up with such speculative pressures, after their currencies were suspended on Black Wednesday. This is certainly true for Britain, where fiscal and monetary policies have been relaxed substantially since.

This is not true for Italy, where there has been no upside, no cutting of rates, no relaxation in policy. The only conceivable good to have come from the lira's departure from the ERM was that it may have provided further proof, if any was needed, about the dire necessity to accept the economics of austerity. In any other respect, Italians look back at Black Wednesday in anger. It is, therefore, no surprise that the Italian government wants to see the lira rejoin the austerity budget.

A number of other factors will have helped as well. The mark has weakened considerably since Black Wednesday. The markets believe that a German recession is certain, and this may cajole the Bundesbank into cutting interest rates. While this all amounts to a somewhat facile analysis of the German domestic situation, there can be little doubt that, on the margin, the ERM operates better when German economy is in recession than when it is overheating.

Yesterday, Piero Barucci, the Italian treasury minister, said that the realignment will probably postpone the return of the lira to the ERM. The fault was not with the system as such, but with "the way in which it is managed". Yet, in view of the considerable political uncertainties that may come to bear on the government next year, proponents of a return to the ERM argue that Italy's unhappily floating currency would "miss the boat" if it waited too long.

Some recent events appear to argue in favour of speed. In December, some important policies will be put in place. The Italian parliament will approve the 1993 budget, little more than a formality after the Senate voted the week before last to approve the core of the package. The most important aspect is the L93,000 billion (£45 billion) austerity package of tax increases and spending cuts. By



Growth move: ERM re-entry at a low level would give Italian farmers a competitive advantage over their French counterparts

December, Italy will also have received approval for an EC loan of 8 billion ecus (£6.6 billion). As part of its carrot and stick policy towards Italy, the EC has made approval of the loan conditional upon the passing of the austerity budget.

There were some suggestions that if all goes well, the lira's return could even happen next month. Within the Bank of Italy, a marginally greater degree of caution prevails, but even there the return of lira is thought to be no more than two or three months away.

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anything if one chooses a convenient enough point. The other main ingredient in the formula is the rise in prices of tradeable goods, thereby excluding most untradeable services whose relative prices are irrelevant with respect to the exchange rate.

The analysis shows that the French franc and the Benelux currencies have remained stable against the mark throughout the period, essentially because of similar rates of inflation, while the lira and sterling have not. It is on the back of this analysis, though probably not exclusively, that the Bundesbank had thought of sterling, the lira and the peseta as depreciation candidates, while it considered the French franc as appropriately valued.

The crucial point is that if one uses this method of PPP/exchange-rate adjustment, suspension of both lira and sterling has effectively done the magic trick. The statistics show that the current lira and sterling exchange rates are just about right in PPP-adjusted terms. They would suggest a tradeable goods PPP (1987) rate for sterling of DM2.45 to the pound, and for the lira of £855 to the mark, both close to their current trading levels.

If one takes the PPPs seriously, one can arrive at two conclusions. First, since the free market has resulted in the "correct" exchange rate, a currency is better off outside the system, especially in the absence of clear economic convergence between the

ERM members. This view suggests that if one wanted to move towards a system of fixed, or quasi-fixed exchange rates, convergence should be the precursor for, rather than the result of, such a policy. Since Italy is only just embarking on a most painful course aimed at producing economic convergence, it would therefore be better to wait until a time when inflation and budget deficits are stabilised at German levels.

If one dismisses this argument as too laisser faire, as it will no doubt be dismissed in Italy, then one has little choice but to look for the "correct" exchange rate, a concept that would make advocates of free-floating shudder.

The difficulty is that if one anticipates that Italy and Spain will continue to suffer from higher inflation than Germany or France, then it may be desirable to build a tolerance margin into the chosen central rate, which would allow them to deflate to the "correct" level in a certain period of time. It would, therefore, be preferable to choose a "false" rate, which over time will become the "correct" rate, rather than vice versa.

It is on this particular point that there exists a note of disagreement between the Germans and the French. The French government wants to avoid cheap Italian imports, especially of agricultural goods such as wine, and hence opposes moves to lock the lira permanently into a low level, which would give Italian companies and farmers a systematic competitive advantage. Germany,

less concerned with Italian imports, wants to avoid another ERM crisis and the need to risk its own money supply in order to bail out other ERM members. The Bundesbank, therefore, would prefer to see the lira devalued further. Since its diplomatic dispute with Norman Lamont in September, Germany's central bank is quite understandably reluctant to be drawn into speculation about devaluation potential for any particular currency.

But it would be astonishing if the Bundesbank did not prefer a further lira devaluation to, say, £900, compared with a present rate of just over £860. In all these deliberations there exists a genuine dilemma: one needs to allow some flexibility for future divergences, and at the same time one does want to allow so much room as to encourage such divergence and distort trade flows.

Most Britons have reacted with relief and gratitude that all this talk about "correct" exchange rates has been pushed off the agenda. But if Italy rejoins the ERM, as is certain, if the Greek drachma joins next year, as is probable; and if Britain and Denmark ratify the Maastricht treaty, as is possible, then Britain and sterling will again look isolated. German interest rates will by then be considerably lower than they are today, and the temptation to sneak back into the system, however inconceivable this may sound today, could simply be irresistible.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New homes for Baring names

TWO months on, Baring Securities is still going through acute discomfort over the break-up of its expensively created European department. As part of 130 job losses, Barings dismissed virtually all its European team, a move described by one observer as "akin to throwing out the caviar because the trifle is full". Many first-class people left, but their talents are not being wasted. Jamie Stewart, who ran the European desk, is back with Jeremy Campbell-Lamerton, a former Barings man. They are running an emerging markets house for Inverlast, the Mexican-owned investment banking group, moving into what is fast becoming one of the most fashionable market areas. Deane Pennick, a top salesman, joined Hoare Govett yesterday, and Andrew Fellows, former medic and pharmaceutical salesmen, joined Enskida last week. At Barings, the rump of the Euro desk is being run by Simon Aldridge, a former Savory Millin man, whom insiders say is not an entirely popular choice. Meanwhile, the job loss fallout apparently went as far as Frankfurt where Julius Baer, the Swiss bank is said to be livid. Its German research team was scattered when Barings poached Heinz Ruland, a top economist, and analyst Heike Fornefett, only to let them go months later.

THE standard of numeracy among insurance companies leaves something to be de-



"Nothing to look forward to these days"

sired. An analysis of the latest *Pearl Investor Confidence Index* contains the following comment: "Whereas in August only 14 per cent of respondents sought to get the highest return on their investments, this number has nearly doubled to 23 per cent in November." If only premiums nearly doubled at the same rate.

Flying high

LORD King's rival, Bernard Atali, president of Air France, has discovered a new way of making brokers do their research. In London last month, talking to City chaps at the Aviation Club, he offered a free flight on Concorde to anyone who could come up with an American airline that could beat the record of Air France, which he bragged had paid £140 million in dividends to the French government in ten years. Enter Andrew Monk, a salesman at Hoare Govett and an aviation fanatic. He dug

Design Council aims to make British manufacturing great again

From the Director General of The Design Council

Sir, The Confederation of British Industry also identifies making British manufacturing more competitive as both far-reaching and comprehensive, and include a number of areas in which the Design Council is already working to improve the competitive performance of British industry.

In particular, the Confederation of British Industry states that it should be a corporate priority "to recognise that innovation in its widest sense will differentiate between those companies which succeed and those which do not".

Our aim at the Design Council is to help British industry develop better products through the total design process, since it is only through design and innovation that British manufacturers can once again produce the added value products that are truly competitive in world

markets. The Confederation of British Industry also identifies making British manufacturing more competitive as both far-reaching and comprehensive, and include a number of areas in which the Design Council is already working to improve the competitive performance of British industry.

At the Design Council, we also work to improve education and training in design and seek to establish links between the education community and manufacturing industry to ensure that our colleges produce industrial and product designers and innovators who can meet the challenges that designing for world markets will set for British industry as the economies of the world emerge from this recession.

Yours sincerely,
IVOR OWEN,
Director General,
The Design Council,
28 Haymarket,
SW1.

Change in law needed to help small firms

From A.C. Hebborn
Sir, Mr Andrew McIntyre suggests (Pressures facing small businesses — November 17) that the government should adopt a more interventionist approach.

It is, indeed, only by legislation that the pressure by banks and the Crown on struggling businesses can be relieved — bank managers and collectors of taxes are required to act within certain guidelines.

Legislation on the following lines should persuade banks and the Crown to support small businesses in their difficulties instead of putting in the boot:

Letters to The Times
Business and Finance
section can be
sent by fax
on 071-782 5112.

Foreign currency account could be conversion answer

From Mr J. Hutchings
Sir, I suggest that Mrs P. Van Rappard (Bank charges and changing foreign currency cheques into sterling, November 20) should have the Canadian annuity paid into a Canadian dollar account in

Canada. She should then obtain a Visa Card on the Canadian account. The card can be used for buying goods anywhere in the world including UK. Also if she wants cash she can get sterling from any cash machine on the Visa system.

Bank ignores pleas

From Mr Frederick Covins

Sir, We, my wife and I, run a small but very successful business and we want our bank to understand and appreciate what we do, how our income is generated, to see our backlog of work in hand, our order books, the amount of money/work awaiting collection and delivery on any given day and the efforts we make to increase that business, both in knowledge and income. Simples you'd think!

On four separate occasions over the last 12 months we have invited our bank to see for themselves and, hopefully, to stop rubbishing us with letters, at £15 a time, telling us we have exceeded our overdraft (£500! — less than a week's income). Result? A deafening silence.

We even wrote to the chairman of the bank, Sir Nicholas Goodison, we received nothing, not even an acknowledgement.

This is the bank "That likes to say YES" (TSB). No wonder the country is in recession and will stay that way until bank managers leave their ivory towers and see for themselves what is really happening at ground level, and offer their support accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK COVINS,
Pipe Elm,
Leigh Sinton,
Malvern,
Worcestershire.

This will cost 1½ per cent extra, but that looks cheap compared with the 10 per cent she appears to be paying at present.

Yours faithfully,
J. HUTCHINGS,
20 Home Road, SW1.

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No	Company	Group	Gains or losses
1	Unisys	Electrical	
2	Woodside	Offs. Gas	
3	Enron	Oil & Gas	
4	Wesfarm	Industrial	
5	Allied Irish	Banks/Dic.	
6	Renfrew	Mining	
7	Meyer Inv.	Building/Eds	
8	Nth Brkn Hill	Mining	
9	Smith W.H.A.	Drapery/Sex	
10	Sime Fonds	Foods	
11	Prudential	Insurance	
12	Douglas Kind	Newspaper/Pub	
13	Salisbury J	Foods	
14	Linga	Cinema/Pics	
15	Servo Cpl	Business Serv.	
16	Smith & Negs	Industrial	
17	Wimpy G	Building/Eds	
18	Brown Shipton	Banks/Dic.	
19	Grand Met	Breweries	
20	Beagle	Industrial	
21	Gen Accident	Insurance	
22	Weir	Industrial	
23	Perkins Food	Foods	
24	Royal	Insurance	
25	Steel Elec	Electrical	
26	Land Sec.	Properties	
27	Eridane	Insurance	
28	Young (T)	Industrial	
29	HIVY Group	Leisure	
30	MPCP	Property	
31	Smurfit Delf	Paper/Pict.	
32	CRE	Insurance	
33	Aus New Z	Banks/Dic.	
34	Cape	Industrial	
35	Lloyds	Banks/Dic.	
36	BAA	Transport	
37	Waypac	Banks/Dic.	
38	Modular	Breweries	
39	Timedean Hot	Leisure	
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Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eight shares in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0244 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Seven winners equally share yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. They are Mrs L. Smith, Parkstone; Mr C.J. Trotter, Kingsgate-on-Thames; Mr G. Bevan, Dudley; Mr M. W. Thomas, Birmingham; Mrs S. Bowles, Peterborough; C. Ross, Camberley and Mrs A. Booth, London SW15.

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld +/- div % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	High	Low	Price	Net	Yld	+/-	div %	P/E
129	ABN AMRO	359	31	315	32	9.2	-2	0.2	15
130	Alison Inv.	121	11	115	11	8.9	-1	0.1	12
131	HSB Aus New Z	130	11	121	11	8.5	-1	0.1	12
132	HSB Aus New Z	130	11	121	11	8.5	-1	0.1	12
133	HSB Aus New Z	130	11	121	11	8.5	-1	0.1	12
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MANAGEMENT

Fine art of rent-chasing

How do you make tenants pay? Hugh Thompson looks at new council strategies

Estimates two years ago showed that at the rate Southwark Council was clawing back the £35 million was owed in back rent it would still be chasing the money in 400 years' time. Southwark is one of ten London boroughs that are collectively owed 37 per cent of the UK's £430 million council rent arrears.

However, Southwark, and other councils, are not sitting back. In the past two years Southwark has adopted an aggressive approach.

Mike Gibson, the chair of the housing committee, says: "During the 1980s the councillors were of the extreme left variety and took the view that arrears were a sign of hardship. All evictions went through a council committee and they usually took a sympathetic view. Decisions were sometimes made for emotional not professional reasons. It became known that while the gas, electricity and telephone bills had to be paid, Southwark was a soft touch. By 1989 one in ten tenants had stopped paying. On some estates the proportion reached nearly half."

The council's policy is now to walk loudly with a big stick. Tenants are leafleted, and written to, and there are posters throughout the borough. Local radio and press advertising is used. Where necessary, bailiffs are used and evictions are now going through at about 20 a week.

The message is getting through. Rent collection is now as high as 96 per cent and the target is even higher. A dedicated central arrears team



The technique: "It is a question of commitment, pressure and getting on with people." Pauline Humphries says

has been set up and is pursuing those in arrears.

Mr Gibson says: "Those who make no effort to pay their arrears we deem as making themselves intentionally homeless. If they have children they go to a hostel. The way the housing budget is ring-fenced means we cannot afford not to collect rents."

At the present collection rate, the arrears will be wiped clean within ten years.

Surveys show that arrears are lower if property is in good condition and rents are collected door to door. However,

because of the security problems, few councils now collect rents in this way. In the past ten years many of the best tenants with a clean rent book have had the right to buy.

The effect of the best tenants leaving and the best property leaving the council house market was to make rent arrears more likely. The dismantling of the Greater London Council added to the housing problems of

councils in the capital — overnight Southwark's housing stock trebled.

One London council that has never had a rent arrears problem of any consequence is Wandsworth. The borough is run by an aggressive Conservative council, which has not only sold 40 per cent of the housing stock but for ten years has also made arrears a priority. This was achieved with the original step of moving rent arrears out of housing and into the finance department. Arrears in the borough are about £4 million.

A housing department, which has to handle repairs and neighbourhood disputes as well as rents, benefits and arrears, can find its priorities ebbing and flowing. Wandsworth's rent arrears section is headed by Pauline Humphries, the chief income officer. She says: "It is all a question of commitment, pres-

sure and getting on with people. I notice that our arrears go up in the summer when more officers are on holiday.

"Maybe we have a reputation of being hard but fair and that is fine if it makes tenants think twice. Once you start to let it slide it is difficult to retrieve the situation. You cannot expect somebody on a low wage or unemployment benefit to pay six weeks' rent. The trick is to get to them before then. A large part of our job is debt counselling and helping tenants to claim their benefits."

One of the advantages of being on top of the problem is good morale in the team. "It all comes from the will of the members," Mrs Humphries says. "They have told us what they want done and left us to get on with it. Everybody in the team has a target."

However, the pressure is unrelenting. Half Wandsworth's 24,000 tenants are in

some arrears, mostly under three weeks, and the slightest slip-up could create the kind of black hole from which Southwark is trying to escape.

The expected help of the courts is not forthcoming. At a recent London Housing Unit seminar, entitled "Collecting the rent: new initiatives and good practice in rent arrears management", speakers from the hardest-hit boroughs of Lambeth, Hackney and Southwark complained that the county courts had made bizarre decisions as councils tried to evict tenants who refused to pay.

"We must never forget there are families with real problems," Mrs Humphries adds, "not least those who are made redundant. They often hope to get a new job immediately, but because they do not sign on they lose benefit, and they get into arrears."

"We must keep educating our tenants about how to get through the benefits jungle."

An object lesson in mismanagement

The royal institute that was supposed to show the way is about to slip quietly into the history books

The institute that was set up to promote good management practice across the public sector is expected to slip quietly into liquidation next month.

Little has been said about the apparent inability of the Royal Institute of Public Administration (RIPA) to manage its affairs and spearhead the debate about public management. There are suspicions that its failure to capitalise on its position as the only non-aligned body to draw members from across the public sector is symptomatic of failures in public sector management generally. The administrative receivers have noted the irony of including topics such as managing services effectively and income generation in the institute's seminar programme. Michael Oldham, of the accountancy firm Smith & Williamson, claims the institute could not manage the trading activities necessary to stay afloat. Mr Oldham says:

"The managers went about things in a way that was not entirely commercial and which probably reflected their own backgrounds in the public sector."

Don McGregor, the former head of the institute's overseas training and consultancy division, agrees. Its passing was a "great sadness but no great surprise," he says. Despite repeated talk of revitalising its revenue base, the institute had been making losses for years.

Crisis point was reached in April, when the bank lost confidence and the institute was forced to raise cash by selling its overseas division, which accounted for 80 per cent of its £2.6 million turnover. A month later, as the 1991-2 accounts were closed,

it became obvious that the year's trading had been worse than expected and that even with sharply reduced liabilities the company was insolvent.

"To me the irony is that there is a lot that is positive and dynamic going on in public sector management, yet I do not think the institute changed much since being set up in the 1920s," says Don

men in staff and equipment might not have been undertaken if the true financial position had been accurately revealed last year," the chairman's statement admits.

Colin Farrington, the director of the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation, says: "There were clearly some serious administrative errors." However, Michael Clarke, the chief executive of the Local Government Management Board and chairman of the institute since December 1990, prefers to present the institute as a victim of external events.

The Gulf war, for example, led to a cut in overseas subscribers for UK-based training courses.

This was compounded by a failure to retain the interest of 850 remaining individual members from central and local government, the health service, executive agencies, universities, quangos and charities. "The institute did not keep up sharply enough with changes in the public sector itself," Mr Clarke concedes — notably in maximising its income. However, the institute is unlikely to sink without trace. Many in the public sector remain convinced of the value of a national institution devoted to the good practice of public administration.

Mr Farrington says: "Such exchanges of good practice are all the more necessary at a time when people at all levels within the public sector face managerial challenges that seem to pose a threat to the whole ethos of the public services in which they have been trained."

NICKY WILMORE



Michael Clarke: a victim of events?

McGregor, who now heads RIPA International for its new parent, Capita.

This failure to move with the times showed in the institute's adherence to a structure that now looks antediluvian. The body was governed by a "small council of distinguished practitioners and experts in public administration", which met quarterly and vested powers in a finance and general purpose committee.

The closure has left creditors £280,000 out of pocket. Topical themes such as accountability appear to have passed the institute by.

The nearest to an admission of mismanagement is a confession in the 1991 annual report that the institute had underprovided on its pensions liabilities by £200,000 and on overheads by £79,500. Invest-

PUBLIC



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Applicants must have completed requirements for either New Zealand Certificate of Sciences, Associate of Society of Cardiopulmonary Technicians or Higher National Diploma or equivalent.

The successful applicants will have had experience in cardiac catheterisation, holter monitoring, cardiac stress testing and respiratory function testing including spirometry. Experience in cardiac pacing and angioplasty may also be desirable, though not essential.

An approximate base salary range of \$NZ28,000-\$NZ35,000 is offered dependent on the level of experience of the successful applicant.

The successful applicant will be required to take part in an on call roster.

Job description and application form may be obtained from:

The Personnel Officer — Support Services
Waikato Hospital
Private Bag 3200, Hamilton
North Island, New Zealand

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Fax: 64-7-839 8758

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Ideally you will be professionally qualified with 5 years of both financial and management accounting experience. You should have the ability to supervise and advise on a broad range of financial matters.

Please apply in writing with a full cv, quoting ref: FM1, to Gloria Beattie, Assistant Personnel Officer.

Closing date: 3 December 1992

Wellington Street, Slough, Berks SL1 1YG

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ST GEORGE'S HOUSE, WINDSOR CASTLE. WARDEN

The Dean and Canons of Windsor and the Council of St George's House invite confidential nominations and applications for the appointment of Warden, to succeed Dr Michael Brock, CBE, who will retire in September 1993.

St George's House is an international residential conference centre which provides a forum for those involved in industry, commerce, the professions etc., to meet together to discuss the spiritual and material aspects of their work; it also provides in-service courses for the clergy and facilities for outside organisations.

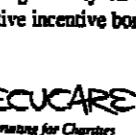
The salary will be c.£25,000 p.a. with free accommodation within Windsor Castle.

Applicants must be communicant members of the Church of England, or full members in good standing of some other Christian Church, and should have held a senior post in a University, the Civil Service, industry, commerce, the professions, or the armed forces.

Persons interested in being considered or wishing to suggest possible candidates are invited to write in confidence to:

Lt Colonel N.J. Newman, Chapter Clerk, The College of St George, Windsor Castle, Berks, SL4 1NJ.
Fax: 0753 819002. Tel: 0753 865538. Closing date for applications is 5th December 1992.

Please send your CV to Mairi Shirley, EXECUCARE, 163-169 Brompton Road, London SW3 1HW. Tel: 071 539 4567.



JPW/MS/10

DIOCESAN OF WINCHESTER

SECRETARY

Applications are invited from practising lay communicants of the Church of England for the post of Diocesan Secretary as the present holder of the post is retiring. To start Autumn 1993.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate experience and skill in management, administration, communications and finance. Relevant professional qualifications will be an advantage. Salary within General Synod Senior Principal Scale.

Application forms and job description from Diocesan Secretary, Church House, 9 The Close, Winchester, Hants, SO23 9LS. Telephone (0962) 844644.

Closing date for applications 26th January 1993.



CLASSICAL page 30

Shura Cherkassky, 81
and still going strong,
storms through a recital
of virtuoso piano music

ARTS

FILM page 31

Divas of the big screen:
opera singers who went
into films, assembled
in an NFT retrospective



Orpheus calls, but Britain isn't listening

Has the musical world gone mad? We all agree that Henry Purcell was a great British composer. In fact in the 250 years between William Byrd laying down his pen and Edward Elgar taking up his, Purcell was the only musical genius this country produced. Admittedly, the British were preoccupied elsewhere at the time conquering the world; inventing trains. Even so, it is a dismal record.

So it is right that the 300th anniversary of Purcell's death should be marked by a dusting down of odes and anthems. But wait a minute. That anniversary does not fall until 1995, yet the Great and Good have already invented something called the Purcell Tercentenary Trust, and the party appears to have started.

Last weekend at the South Bank three concerts and a workshop set the jamboree in motion. Tied in with that, Radio 3 is featuring Purcell's incidental theatre music—hundreds of splendid, unplayed tunes—this week. Next November will see a similar weekend based around Roger Norrington conducting *The Fairy Queen*, and in November 1994 more of the same with John Eliot Gardiner conducting *King Arthur*.

Finally, in the tercentenary year itself, there will be a week of Purcell performances at the South Bank, hundreds of concerts around the country, a Westminster Abbey tribute on the anniversary (November 21), and commissions for 12 composers to write works for viol consort inspired by Purcell's own wild and wonderful fantasies. Compared with all that, last year's Mozart bicentenary blitz may begin to seem like the model of restraint, though there are no plans as yet to sell chocolate effigies of Purcell.

The odd thing is, it's all desperately needed — every last false relation, scotch snap and ground-bass of it. Purcell's reputation is not so much high or low as hardly measurable at all. We know his contemporaries thought him a

MUSIC: Richard Morrison joins the tercentenary party for Henry Purcell, even though it has begun three years early

genius: "Orpheus Britannicus" they called him, after his death. We appreciate that Handel's discovery of Purcell's music revolutionised his own choral writing. One had only to hear the sonorous finale to *Hail! Bright Cecilia* or the ebullient triple-time airs of the *Dioclesian* masque, both sprucely performed by the Orchestra and Choir of the Age of Enlightenment under Gustav Leonhardt last weekend, to recognise what impressed Handel.

And we know that Purcell was at the heart of cultural life during a remarkable era. In the age of Newton and Wren, he was virtually composer-in-residence to the four great meeting places of Restoration London: the church (as organist at Westminster Abbey), the court, the theatre and the coffee houses, for which he wrote ingenious and utterly filthy part-songs.

We know all this, and yet if Purcell's whole output was swept off our planet, most music-lovers would hardly notice it had gone, apart from the "Bell" Anthem and *Dido and Aeneas*. Nor are they aware of his life-story. How could they be? During the Purcell weekend I slipped into the admirable Waterstone's bookshop at the Festival Hall. There I counted 28 books on Mozart, 18 on Beethoven, six on Berioz, and tonnes on every obscure pen-pusher from Alkan to Varese. On Purcell there was nothing. Not

a very scientific piece of research, perhaps, but it seemed symbolic.

One obstacle to modern appreciation is the fact that Purcell worked in media that we don't value highly today. He wrote no operas apart from *Dido*, but semi-operas and masques ornately staged allegories mixing spoken dialogue and music. Neither fish nor fowl, they have largely been avoided by opera and drama companies alike. And his superb verse-anthems are usually too long for modern use.

Raising awareness of these hidden Purcellian treasures is what these November weekends are about. Roger Savage's enterprising Saturday afternoon workshop, for instance, sought to put Purcell's theatre music into its stage context by juxtaposing the performances of soprano Catherine Bott and the spirited Purcell Quartet with readings from Congreve, Dryden and other contemporary playwrights. That revealed how easy it is to misunderstand Purcell. To take a droll example: would the song "Nymphs and Shepherds" have been endorsed for classroom singing with quite such enthusiasm by generations of teachers if its origins had been known? Purcell wrote it for Shadwell's play, *The Libertine*, which was as cynical a catalogue of murder and rape as was ever put together in the name of entertainment.

Such workshops are fun for the specialists. But if Purcell is really to grip the nation in 1995, those same specialists must now grit their teeth, turn populist, and put some flesh and blood on Purcell's somewhat shadowy historical presence. The parallels with Mozart are fascinating. Both composers were child prodigies, both died in their mid-thirties and were victims of court and theatre intrigues that save less-gifted men given preference. And both wrote funeral music for powerful patrons towards the end of their lives (the Requiem by Mozart, the Queen Mary Funeral Music by Purcell) that seemed to pre-empt their own deaths. But whereas Mozart's life and death have been the stuff of a hundred speculative biographies, few scholars so far are making the connections between Purcell's life and his art.

Similarly, few performers seem yet to have worked out strong interpretive ideas about his music. They know, of course, all about period style that was evident at the weekend. And such characterful soloists as Michael Chance and David Wilson-Johnson did capture the wit of the songs.

But there was a pristine primness about the performances which suggested that Purcell is not yet in the players' bones. That is understandable. His music can be as capricious as a dinghy in a swirling wind: one moment smooth and ingratiating, like a Vivaldi slow movement; the next, spiky, unruly and dissonant. A love song may suddenly be spiced by a bizarre clash of inner parts or a boisterous jing anarchic and archaic unexpectedly sharpened up into a suave chain of sweet consonances.

This protean unpredictability is what makes Purcell so absorbing and yet so hard for performers to pin down. But the more they perform him, the more his music will yield its secrets. Perhaps it is right to start the tercentenary party now. By 1995, we may just have restored Purcell to his proper place at the centre of British musical life.



The "Orpheus Britannicus" at the height of his fame: a 1695 portrait of Henry Purcell (painted by John Closterman or one of his school), which hangs in the National Portrait Gallery

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS



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Interviews will be held on 11 and 12 January 1993.

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Honest entertainer gets the people's vote

AT FIRST sight the prime contenders for the London Film Festival's new British Feature Audience Award seemed *Peter's Friends* (comic Oxford Angst) or *Leon the Pig Farmer* (kosher London farce). In the event, audiences balked after the festival's 16 British features narrowly chose Stefan Schwartz's *Soft Top Hard Shoulder*, a road movie comedy with an Italian-Scottish twang. Peter Capaldi (also the film's scriptwriter) stars as the wayward scion of

ARTS BRIEFING

an ice-cream dynasty, who is desperately trying to reach his native Glasgow by car.

"A lot of British directors are making films to entertain or inform," the 29-year-old Schwartz says, adding with commendable frankness: "I'm a shallow director, hoping to

entertain." The award, sponsored by the makers of Gold Bier, gives £10,000 towards the film's advertising and publicity costs when it enters distribution, which will be sometime next year.

Last chance . . .

JOHN GUARE'S *Six Degrees of Separation* was famously inspired by a real-life incident in America in which a young black nobody charmed his way into the rich Manhattan

world of the almost-somebodies. From this promising beginning Guare built his fascinating portrait of a society of frantic achievers, notably the woman played by Stockard Channing, changed for ever by the angelic commoner (Adrian Lester) who flashes across her life. The title refers to the illusory closeness of everybody on this planet. Phyllida Lloyd's swift and snappy production is at the Comedy Theatre (071-867 1111) until Saturday.

Stephen Pettitt at Huddersfield's Contemporary Music Festival

Soaked in the avant-garde

Two days and four concerts and already I am overwhelmed by the sheer variety on offer at this year's Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. The event has become a model of intelligent planning, combining the established with the experimental and emergent, and there is now a feeling abroad that the community has become rather proud of it.

Judging from abundant banners around the grey, rain-soaked town, it is certainly well aware of it. Every year several pillars support the structure of the programming, around which the festival is freely embellished. Iannis Xenakis was 70 earlier this year and his music had to be one of them, but room is also found for Franco Donatoni, Klaus Huber, Barry Guy, John Tavener, and the late John Cage. The byword is careful selection.

Or perhaps not for the English Northern Philharmonic concert on Friday in the Town Hall, for which four violently disparate works had been selected.

Xenakis's *Krindisi*, receiving its British premiere, opened the evening with its thick, elemental sounds. Its title apparently refers to a relatively innocuous sea-urchin, but the composer must have accidentally traded on one, for if this music did indeed depict them, it was surely as monsters stirring



Iannis Xenakis, 70 this year: a festival theme

than easy effects. But this piece had been expressly written for the festival's education programme, and involved deaf and hearing children working alongside each other in groups under the guidance of the ENP's percussionists.

The youngsters made a splendid sound, evoking tugs, storms and wind, dancing sea-magpies, even the stars in Bedford's adaptation of an aboriginal creation myth with discipline, complete commitment and immense enjoyment. If anything the hearing children seemed the more tenuous. Richard Stilgoe, complete with *Neighbours* accent, narrated vividly. Peter Llewellyn-Jones equally vividly provided the signed version.

And after that? John Tavener's dramatic ritual *The Repentant Thief* (with Andrew Mariner as the fine clarinet soloist) and Marie-Anthony Turnage's *Three Screaming Popes*. There is no need to rehearse their fine qualities here; both were played excellently, as was the rest of the programme, under Elgar Howarth's direction.

The following day began with the Goldberg Ensemble, who offered string music which included more Xenakis (*Arousa*, 1971), some Huber (*Alveare Vernat*, 1985), and Barry Guy's impressively spacious *Flagwalk* (1983), which collides the sonorous with the violently fragmented. There was also the winning work in the Yorkshire and Humber-side Arts Young Composers' Award. The prize went to John Stringer, *His Life in the Light First Image* (the title comes from Beckett) had a pleasing shape and rhythmic definition, and that, despite an objective rather than evocative stance, gives him a firm basis for further development.

Later, Stephen Gutman gave a marvellous piano recital which ended with four rather Debussyian miniatures from Simon Holt's ongoing *Book of Colours* — two of them, the brilliant *A Shapeless Flame* and the resonant *Some Distant Chimes*, were receiving first performances — and Poul Ruders's epic Second Sonata, which succeeds in the difficult task of advancing an obviously traditional four-movement classical form. In company other than this, John Hopkins's *Sonata* (1991) would have sounded as fine an achievement as its is.

Later still the Tokyo International Music Ensemble whisked us to the Far East with, praise be, Japanese music that does not pander to Western traditions. After a traditional dance, *Ryo-o*, there was Takemitsu's indeterminate and delicate *Seasons* (1970) for shakuhachi, biwa and two percussionists, all of whom speak and perform movements. Maki Ishii's *Hiten Seido* (1981), however, spoke just as poetically.

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HOWARD CARTER: BEFORE
TUTANKHAMUN:

As well as being one of the most famous and successful Egyptologists, Howard Carter was also a noted archaeologist, author, photographer and businessman. This exhibition charts Carter's life and achievements from his humble beginnings to his fruitful partnership with the Fifth Earl of Carnarvon. It includes a collection of his photographs and水印s together with a fine and representative selection of the wealth of Egyptian antiquities which he discovered or which passed through his hands.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-638 6551). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm. Until May 31, 1993.

HAY FEVER Mata Alfonso and John Standing bewilder the weekend guests in Carter's excellent comedy.

Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-887 1115). Preview tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pm.

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH The Northern band offer lyrics with a social conscience wrapped in a sweet, off-key sound.

Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex (081-900 1234), 7.30pm.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE The company opens its Sadler's Wells season with two London

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

premises: *Motorcade* (set to Saint-Saëns' *Sorcerer*) by the popular American choreographer Mark Morris, and *Rossetti*, for which Christopher Bruce turned to the art of the Pre-Raphaelite. Presented on a mixed bill with Anne Tzara's *Freedom of Information*. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

TENDER IS THE NORTH: At the Barbican, Finn-Pasino Bergland conducts the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Chamber Music III. Nielsen's *Concerto* (with the accomplished Emma Johnson), Haydn's Cello Concerto in C with Antonio Noriega and Symphony No 99. At the Wigmore Hall Norwegian soprano Solveig Nansen performs Grieg's song-cycle "Haustus" in a world première.

Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-328 8891), 7.30pm. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 2141), 7.30pm.

REGIONAL

BATH: Opera 80 has changed its name to English Touring Opera, but

its assassins: Sondheim's sharp and successful musical explores the impulses that drives men to kill American Presidents.

Barbican, Barbican, Euston Road, WC2 (071-887 1150). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, Sat, 8pm.

△ **IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY**: Larks in the hospital common room, matron outraged: doctors fumigated, Ray Cooney laughs at the lack of taste.

Princes, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-838 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mat Thurs, Sat, 8pm; Sun, 5.30pm; 150 mins.

△ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Anna Carteret, Helen Gordon and Martin Sheen in a production of Oscar Wilde's masterpiece. Some dated assumptions but stylish done.

Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-484 5065). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm.

△ **JUNIOR JUNIOR**: Not a youngster out of the Alley, but a brilliant comedy by Ring Lardner and George S. Kaufman. Excellent cast led by Adam Godley and Frank Lazzaro.

Vestry, The Strand, WC2 (071-826 9911). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 8pm; 100mins.

△ **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN**: Tremendously popular production at the Kander & Ebb musical. It conveys the values of Manuel Puig's novel but Che Riva makes a strong vamp.

Shaw, New Bond Street, W1 (071-373 5388). Mon-Fri, 8pm; mat Tues, 8.30pm; Sun, 7.30pm; mat Wed, Sat, 8pm; 150mins.

△ **LOST IN YONKERS**: Terrible performance by Rosemary Harris as a Nea Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman gives good value at a lousy price.

Almeida, Almeida, W1 (071-209 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, Sat, 8pm; 120mins.

△ **MAKING IT BETTER**: Lust, treachery and ambition revealed as an English couple harbour two secret loves on American soil. Jane Asher leads an all-American cast in James Saunders' play.

Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mat Tues, 8.30pm; Sun, 7.30pm.

△ **SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION**:

Stockard Channing is the rich New Yorker transformed by a black cast arrested by a shy girl escaping her caucasian mother.

Comedy, Frith Street, SW1 (071-895 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed, Sat, 9pm.

△ **SQUARE ROUNDS**: Good, good for everyone! Tony Harrison's play about a shy girl escaping her caucasian mother.

Almeida, Almeida, W1 (071-209 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, Sat, 8pm; 150mins.

△ **THREE BIRDS ALIGHTING ON A FELT**: Helen Waller perfectly again in review of this subtle, comic state-of-the-nation play, set in a world of shifting values and plummeting art-prices.

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1

538 6140.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol *) on release across the country

MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-538 6140).

CURRENT

♦ **THE CRYING GAME** (IB): IRA

mother and son's secret past is hotly contested. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that rattles at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Fiona Whisker, Jane Davidson, Miranda Richardson.

Caravan West End (071-838 2050).

MGM Piccadilly (0428 914686)

Mayfair, Mayfair (020 974511 West End (0428 91574) UCI Whiteleys (071-782 3322).

♦ **SISTER ACT** (PG): Whoop! Goldberg hide out in a convent.

Comedy, West End (071-838 2050).

Odeon, Kensington (0428 914686)

Mayfair, Mayfair (020 974511 West End (0428 91574) UCI Whiteleys (071-782 3322).

SMILES OF A SUMMER NIGHT (15): New point of Bergman's lovely

scripting comedy about mismatched couples (1955). Starring Eva Dahlbeck, Bibi Andersson, Ingrid Thulin, Gunnel Lindblom.

Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me (15): David Lynch's distinctive project to the cult television series, with Sheryl Lee as the resurrected Laura Palmer. Cinema Palace (071-838 2443) Gate 071-782 3000). UCI Whiteleys (071-370 2300).

MGM Piccadilly (071-838 2050).

♦ **THE CRYING GAME** (IB):

Caravan West End (071-838 2050).

♦ **FORBIDDEN PLANET**

Mont 8 Fri 9 Sat 10 & 12.30pm.

STEADMAN HORROR

11.30pm Sat 12 & 1.30pm Sun 13.

♦ **LITTLE VOICE**

By Jim Cartwright.

Directed by Sam Mendes.

Almeida, Almeida, W1 (071-838 6111).

From A Jack To A King

Friday & Saturday 8.30 & 10.30pm.

Michael Hordern

Helena Bonham

Carter Jason Connery

& Sarah Brightman

10.30pm Sunday.

♦ **THE WELLS**

By Arthur Woods.

Directed by Michael Redman.

Criterion, Covent Garden (071-838 2443) Gate 071-838 2443/9777 9977.

Mon-Fri 8.15pm 6 & 8.45pm.

PETER O'TOOLE

Our Song

By Alan Parker.

Directed by Peter Shaffer.

Caravan, Covent Garden (071-838 2443) Gate 071-838 2443/9777 9977.

Mon-Fri 8.15pm 6 & 8.45pm.

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Applications are invited for the post of independent adjudicator to be responsible for determining disputes between the Department for National Savings and its investors. The present incumbent is due to vacate the position shortly, and a successor will be required early in 1993.

The new adjudicator will be appointed under the provisions of Section 84 of the Friendly Societies Act 1992. You should have a 7 year general qualification, within the meaning of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990; be an advocate or solicitor in Scotland of at least 7 years standing; or be a member of the bar of Northern Ireland or solicitor of the Supreme Court of Northern Ireland of at least 7 years standing. The post will be part-time and remunerated on a daily, fee-paid basis. Most hearings will be in London, but some travel within the UK will be involved for which appropriate expenses will be paid.

Application in writing, together with CV, should be addressed to The Secretariat, Room 106/G, Parliament Street, London, SW1P 3AG. Further information from the Secretariat on 071 270 4679. Closing date for applications is 8 December 1992.

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TELEVISION PICTURE 34



Tony Bland, the Hillsborough crush victim, with his parents Alan and Barbara: the court case has helped to clarify a difficult area of law

The pain of judgment

Alexander McCall Smith assesses the significance of recent cases concerning life-and-death issues

This has been a dramatic year for life-and-death issues. The court decision to permit a non-consensual Caesarean delivery, the conviction of Dr Nigel Cox for attempted murder and last week's judgment on the persistent vegetative state have all focused the legal spotlight on some of the most harrowing areas of medical law.

Has anything changed as a result of this flurry of judicial activity? Probably not a great deal, although the last of these decisions, the Tony Bland case, has helped to clarify what was until last week a somewhat murky area of the law.

Doctors treating Mr Bland will have to wait several weeks until they can take steps that will lead to their patients' death. David Venables, the Official Solicitor, has acknowledged the stress entailed in bringing an appeal and thereby prolonging the issue, but feels quite understandably that this is a matter of considerable public importance that must be tested in a higher court.

All along, he has done exactly what his office requires of him: to speak for one who is not in a position to speak for himself. The argument his counsel put before the court is not to be lightly dismissed. He said that there is a very strong presumption in favour of life, and that this presumption should be overridden only when the suffering of the patient is such that further prolongation of life is not in his best interest. A person in a persistent vegetative state, he argued, is incapable of suffering and is therefore entitled to basic nursing care.

This is where the really significant disagreement arose. Mr Bland is being kept alive by the provision of naso-

gastric nutrition and hydration; he is being fed artificially. If this artificial feeding is regarded as medical treatment, then it is appropriate; otherwise, it is reduced to a question of whether it is legitimate to withhold medical treatment from people whose prospects are as poor as his.

The answer, of course, is that it is quite acceptable, legally and morally, to withhold treatment from those for whom the treatment would be unproductive. One does not have to give antibiotics to a patient whose future quality of life is extremely low and whose life expectancy is strictly limited.

No need doctors operating in such a case, the view being that there may come a time at which the appropriate response is to stand back and let nature takes its course rather than to struggle heroically to keep somebody alive.

If artificial feeding is described as medical treatment, then both the ethical and the legal issues largely fall away. If, however, it is seen as no more than the provision of



Dr Nigel Cox: convicted of attempted murder

the basic care to which everybody is entitled, even those who are at the very end of a painful and distressing illness, then its withholding becomes very much more dubious.

Will it be possible to withhold basic care from those whose lives we feel have become a burden to them and to others?

In his pleadings, the Official

Solicitor asked whether we were not in danger here of stepping on to a very slippery slope. This probably meant that he saw the permitting of the withholding of treatment in such cases as the start of a process by which we distinguish between those lives that are worth the minimum care (nursing and feeding) and those that we deem should not get even that.

The judge's response to this was to emphasize again and again that in his judgment the persistent vegetative state was special, that in such cases the part of the brain that controls cognition was simply no longer operating.

As he said at one point in his decision, there is in this case no evidence of a "working mind"; to the parents and the family in question, the patient is dead. "His spirit has left him and all that remains is the shell of his body."

In such a case, why should there be a continued effort to keep alive what has become a breathing cadaver? Most people would probably see no point at all, and would share the judge's view that in such a case, that which makes a person human has been irretrievably lost.

The Bland judgment is nothing to do with active

euthanasia and adds nothing to the clear message of the Cox case that the deliberate taking of life will amount to homicide. There is nothing novel in the withholding of medical treatment where it does no good — this goes on all the time in the discontinuance of the treatment of badly handicapped infants and in the withholding of treatment from very aged patients with few prospects of a reasonable quality of life.

What this judgment does achieve, however, is to put beyond doubt the category that artificial feeding comes into, and thus it will enable doctors to allow many patients who have already suffered in "cognitive death" to die a swifter and more dignified "final death".

It will be important, though, that relatives are fully involved in decisions of this nature, and that if they believe such a patient still to be "present", this intuition should be taken into account.

Yet it is not clear what would happen if relatives wanted artificial feeding and highly expensive nursing treatment to be continued in the face of a hopeless medical prognosis.

Relatives cannot dictate medical treatment so their wishes should ultimately be overridden by what is seen as being in the patient's best interests.

Proponents of euthanasia

will find comfort in the Bland decision in that they will no doubt see it as an endorsement of their view that there should be clear limits to medical efforts where life has lost all

real meaning. They might, though, be tempted to point to the evidence given in this case that bodily death, when artificial feeding is withdrawn, will come only after ten days or more of, admittedly sedated, starvation. They might ask why it is necessary to go through that, and suggest that the administration of a lethal injection would be not only morally more courageous but less of an insult to the dignity of the patient.

The decision in the Cox case

has underlined the legal unacceptability of that, and until Parliament changes the criminal law — which is highly unlikely — all the courts can do is to ease the passing, in the way in which they propose to do in the tragic case of Mr Bland.

• The author is Reader in Law, University of Edinburgh.

Wigs win the vote

CRIMINAL barristers have delivered their verdict on wigs they want to keep them. A Criminal Bar Association survey found 72 per cent of the 580 members who replied favoured keeping the existing regalia for Crown Court cases. Half the rest wanted to discard only their wigs but to keep their gowns.

About one in eight wanted ordinary clothes to be worn. Barristers of both sexes agreed that robes ensured they were treated with more respect, and clients responded "more constructively", they also said.

"The uniform provides a level playing field for the more junior Bar," was another view. Others warned of the dangers of the "jungle-suit approach" and of "sartorial competitiveness or Armani advocacy". Would a jury, they pondered, be won over by "hairy ties"?

Legal cover

PROVIDING upmarket security for solicitors' firms has paid off for Simon Cooney, a solicitor. His company, First Security, has been shortlisted for the 1992 Business Enterprise Award.

The company, set up five years ago, is the largest privately owned guarding company in the UK. Law firm clients include Theodore Goddard, McKenna & Co and Titmuss Sainer & Webb.

Mr Cooney says: "Our niche is providing quality security staff to the prestige

office market. The old image of a security officer is a bruiser. We provide security officers who can also act as receptionists."

Backlog

THE Commercial Court is in danger of grinding to a halt. "When we want to make ourselves weep," says David Bird, clerk to the Commercial Court, "we read the recent House of Lords debate on the crisis in the Commercial Court." Sadly, the position has worsened since Stephen Carter, of Charles Russell, said the courts were not as clogged up as they once were.

Now, with only one judge available to hear a list established by Mr Bird for a cast of six, the court cannot keep pace with its backlog.

"They do not seem to think there is a problem," Mr Bird says in a nutshell, when the Lord Chancellor's department refuses to comment on the reasons for the delays, but says "it will soon announce at least two new appointments."

Law of loans

AMID the concern over parity of student funding, Nottingham Law School is to introduce the country's first student loan scheme specially devised for trainee lawyers.

The school, part of Nottingham Trent University, has joined forces with the Royal Bank of Scotland to offer a loan package to students enrolling in the new legal practice course from September.

They do not seem to think there is a problem," Mr Bird says in a nutshell, when the Lord Chancellor's department refuses to comment on the reasons for the delays, but says "it will soon announce at least two new appointments."

As a result, with four judges being tied up in long cases and one retired, the stalwart Mr Justice Saville is the only judge available to hear the

case on so that we can earn some money."

The Lord Chancellor's department refuses to comment on the reasons for the delays, but says "it will soon announce at least two new appointments."

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Two new ventures reveal the increasing involvement of lawyers in television production, both campaigning and educational.

A new television production company aimed at exposing miscarriages of justice has stolen a march on its rivals by winning the blessing and support of a team of leading campaigners for justice and law reform. Just Television, headed by David Jessel, former presenter of the BBC's *Rough Justice* series, has formed an advisory group including Ludovic Kennedy, the author; Michael Mansfield QC; Anthony Scrivener QC, the former Bar chairman; Judge Stephen Tumim, the chief inspector of prisons; and Sir David Steel MP.

Just Television has a contract with Channel 4 to produce up to six programmes investigating miscarriages of justice in the next two years. Mr Jessel says the group will "advise, guide, suggest and inspire" the makers of the series which is, provisionally entitled *Trial and Error*.

The fact that a television company working in this area has attracted such leading legal and political figures is a sign of a softening of attitudes within the legal establishment to such programmes, which have previously been viewed with suspicion and hostility.

The degree of mistrust was revealed in the early 1980s when complaints from Lord Lane, then the Lord Chief Justice, about a programme on Anthony Mycock, a man convicted of aggravated burglary, resulted in the original producer of *Rough Justice* and a journalist working on the series both being suspended by the BBC. Lord Lane dismissed such programmes as "mere entertainment". Mycock's conviction was quashed a few years later.

Now senior members of the judiciary seem to have changed their attitudes. The makers of *Rough Justice* were thanked by Lord Taylor, the present Lord Chief Justice, for their work on the case of the Darvel brothers who had their murder convictions quashed in the Court of Appeal in July after a programme investigating the case.

Mr Kennedy, a long-time campaigner for wrongly convicted prisoners, will chair the advisory group.

He says: "There is a movement among younger members of the legal profession to recognise that we in the media

Screening a posse of just men



are not against them but with them."

Michael Mansfield, QC, however, believes lawyers still have a long way to go. "Though there has been a sign of a shift from some parts of the Bar," he says, "most barristers still view these programmes with suspicion."

The presence of Judge Tumim on the advisory group — the first judge to be involved in such a venture — may cause some raised eyebrows among the judiciary. He has spoken out against poor conditions in the country's jails, last week heavily criticising conditions at Lewes prison, East Sussex.

Though he has just become formally involved with Mr Jessel and his team, Judge Tumim has been helping them to locate potential subjects within Britain's large prison population for some time.

"Competition may have its

dangers, but we are determined to avoid them. It is ultimately a good thing for our client group, the people in jail, because it means we have effectively twice the resources for these cases."

Charles Hunter, the producer of *Rough Justice*, is worried that the situation may develop into a "beauty contest", with both teams courting the same prisoner and making him or her unrealistic promises in order to get the right to feature his case. However, he says, both teams are professional enough to prevent this happening.

Mr Jessel's decision to leave the BBC caused some acrimony there. He says he left after a senior BBC staff member told him the corporation was not fully committed to the series and that the future of *Rough Justice* was in doubt, something which Steve Hewitt, the programme's BBC executive producer, denies.

"This is not so," he says. "There was some discussion at the time of the budget for the programme, but its future was never in doubt. I resent the assertion that we have lost our nerve."

"There was some discussion at the time of the budget for the programme, but its future was never in doubt. I resent the assertion that we have lost our nerve."

Both teams are at present doing extensive research into a number of possible miscarriages of justice. Neither is at the filming stage. Mr Jessel says research is given a high priority at Just TV. Of every 50 cases researched, only three are likely to make it to the screen.

About 15 per cent of the cases come from letters from lawyers. Mr Jessel says this percentage could rise. "Every criminal practitioner has handled a case which they are not happy with," Mr Jessel says. "We want them to come forward."

He says his team should not be seen as a television programme group but as simply another legal resource, with access to forensic experts and others that legal aid firms often do not have.

Both teams are aware of the dangers that a drop in standards could put this important area of journalism back years in the eyes of the public and the legal profession.

SEAN WEBSTER
• The author writes for Solicitors Journal.

Lessons for early birds

Tomorrow morning at 3.15, the College of Law and the Law Society, in conjunction with the BBC, will launch Legal Network Television (LNTV), the first educational broadcast service in the UK aimed specifically at lawyers.

The pre-dawn attack by the BBC is just the opening offensive in an extended publicity barrage which is likely to last through the new year. Over the next three months, the network hopes to sign up enough subscribers to its twice-weekly broadcast service to give it a firm base for when the programmes start in earnest in February.

LNTV is just one of a series of education services being broadcast by the BBC in the early hours of the morning. Series for doctors, business people and accountants have already started. LNTV will be available only to subscribers who have installed a BBC selector on their video equipment, which decodes the scrambled signal and automatically triggers the video recorder.

A lot of money hangs on the new service. Producing television programmes, even in these days of honed down costs, is an expensive business. The College of Law, the Law Society and the BBC who together own LNTV are confident that the attractiveness of the service will make it a commercially viable venture.

"We expect that it will be paying for itself within a year," said Peter Brindley, the College of Law lecturer who is LNTV's chief executive.

The drive behind the service is the idea that lawyers want more education training and that with compulsory continuing professional education (CPE) for all just little over five years away, it is now ripe to start a television service.

The two half-hour programmes will be backed by print material and should form the basis of training sessions for which CPE points can be claimed. Rather than attending expensive courses, lawyers will be able to update themselves via LNTV in the comfort of their offices.



Legal precedent LNTV is the UK's first network for lawyers

will pay just twice as much as the small high-street outfit. LNTV maintains that whatever the price, service will give excellent value. Its strength should lie in its combination of the College of Law's educational expertise and the participation of recognised national authorities (such as David Goy, QC, on VAT and property, and Hugh Laddie, QC, on Antwerp Pillar orders).

Unlike its cousin, Accountancy TV, which presents business news and education in a series of segments, LNTV will focus in depth on one subject in each programme. The style promises to be glossy, with lively graphics from Diversify, an outside production company, but there will be no high-profile, on-screen presenter (again unlike Accountancy TV), preferring instead to rest on straight opinions and insights from leading legal authorities.

So far, nobody is being paid to appear on LNTV, but barristers are still apparently queuing up to offer their services for nothing. Will LNTV create stars to rival *Knightmare*? Tune in tomorrow.

EDWARD FENNELL

THE TIMES

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With comparative turnover up 29%, new business considerably ahead of last year and significant cash reserves, a lawyer is now sought to act as Group Legal Adviser at the Company's West London Headquarters.

Likely to be aged 28-38, the successful candidate will report directly to the Group's Finance Director and work closely with the Board. Key areas of responsibility will include:

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- Advising in relation to the Group's property portfolio
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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry on 071-405 6062 (071-228 5345 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JF. Confidential fax 071-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougall Commerce & Industry Recruitment.



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The London office of Baker & McKenzie is expanding a number of its key practice areas and is looking to fill the following positions.

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Our long-established and highly regarded Employment Law Practice handles the full range of employment matters relevant to companies operating in the UK. The candidate should have two to five years high calibre post-qualification experience in both contentious and non-contentious employment law.

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Our Construction and Engineering Department handles major disputes work, advises on the drafting and negotiation of all construction and related contracts, and the structuring and financing of major projects.

The candidate's qualifications will include:

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The successful candidates will all have impressive academic records together with the necessary experience required for each post. We offer excellent remuneration packages, with opportunities to work with our offices throughout Europe and elsewhere.

Baker & McKenzie is the world's largest international law firm, with over 2,000 lawyers practising in over 50 locations throughout Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, Australia and the Pacific Basin.

If you are interested in applying for one of the above positions, please write with full curriculum vitae which will be dealt with in confidence, indicating for which position you would like to be considered to: Mrs Jo Darby, Baker & McKenzie, 100 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6JA.

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1992

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Contrary world of the admirable grayling is catching

DID you know that the grayling in Lake Balaton in Wales, migrate into the River Dee in summer? Neither did I. Did you know that because of the quite exceptional hatches of small stone-flies in the River Allier, in France, grayling can be caught there on the dry fly right through December? Nor I. Did you know that the Sava Bohinka strain of grayling in Eastern Europe has a red tail? That's two of us.

But we do now, which means that the annual conference of the Grayling Society at Llangollen worked its usual modest sorcery, focusing on this highly idiosyncratic fish the kind of attention that others would give their pharyngeal teeth for.

It is quite astonishing what the Grayling Society, in its 15 years, has been able to do for the grayling, the more so given the unhelpful nature of the creature itself.

For a start, the grayling is thoroughly contrary. It does not care for the round eyes that other fish have, so it has

Brian Clarke joins up with the devotees of an unglamorous and unlikely small object of desire at their annual conference

developed a pear-shaped one instead. It carries an adipose fin, the insignia of the lordly game fish, but it insists on looking like a coarse fish and on breeding when the coarse fish breed.

The society has, for example, been instrumental in reducing at least some of the slaughter of grayling on the chalk streams, an unnecessary work undertaken in the belief that the fish were competing with the trout and were directly responsible for the trout's decline. Studies carried out by society members, or publicised by it, suggest that where trout populations decline it is primarily because the fish's environment has been eroded, and that the only result of electrofishing grayling and removing them from a river is to reduce the number of sizable fish and to encourage lots of smaller fish instead.

Over the years, at its confer-

ences and meetings, the society has shed much other light on the grayling's natural history, distribution, breeding behaviour and feeding habits. It publishes a small journal to promote what it has learnt. It has developed branches throughout Great Britain and has representatives in Belgium, Holland, Sweden,



The grayling: dainty and unheroic but in demand

Canada and the United States. It keeps lots of statistics.

I do not have many claims to grayling fame, but one of them is — or, at least, was — that on September 23, 1983, I caught the 23rd largest grayling then known to have been caught on a fly. I have not asked the society to do-

ble check this in case my catch has since been shuffled down the list or in case my memory is playing tricks and the fish was really the 63rd largest. But the details are not important. What is important is that the society should be there with relevant data to hand and be able and willing to send me a report on the fish's age and growth rate year by year, based on microscopic readings of the scales I

brought it so much gentle affection. It is a great beginner's fish in the summer because it is not easily put down by clumsy casting. In the autumn, even trout men warm to it because the grayling is still feeding at the surface though the season for it is long over.

Of course, not everyone is as involved day-to-day with the grayling, as are members of the Grayling Society. In fact, at a guess, practically nobody is. The annual conference this month was told that members had sought and tested for grayling in 84 different rivers in the United Kingdom, as well as many abroad. Some members fished between 30 and 40 days a year.

For most anglers, the grayling is a coincidental fish. It is the fish that pops up to take your fly when you know you have cast to a trout — and then

pops up again to take your other fly which you know for certain you had cast to a trout.

The grayling's willingness

to rise to an artificial fly — and

to go on rising after more

sensible fish have learned better

— is its saving grace and what

brings it so much gentle

affection. It is a great begin-

ner's fish in the summer

because it is not easily put

down by clumsy casting. In

the autumn, even trout men

warm to it because the gray-

ling is still feeding at the

surface though the season for

it is long over.

There is another character-

istic that marks out the gray-

ling. It is that when the fly

hatches have finally waned

and the fish is forced to

remain hard on the bottom,

the grayling will still go on

feeling and offering sport to

those who fish with a float.

Most fishing slows down in

winter because the trout is out

of season and the metabo-

RUGBY LEAGUE

Ford gets chance as injuries take toll

By CHRISTOPHER IRVING

A HEAVY injury toll has given the England rugby league side an experimental feel, with three senior internationals drafted into the starting line-up to face Wales at Swansea on Friday.

The withdrawal of the experienced Wigan props, Andy Platt and Kevin Skeete, along with the second-row forward, Denis Bettis, should partly redress the imbalance up front, where the Welsh were felt to be weakest.

After a training session at Headingley, Malcolm Reilly, the England coach, yesterday brought the Castleford and Great Britain prop, Lee Crook, into the side to assume the goalkicking role from Deryck Fox, a fourth injury victim of a disconcerting weekend for Reilly.

In place of Fox, Mike Ford, the Castleford scrum half, will partner Gary Schofield at half back, a not-altogether-unhappy proposition, particularly given the speed of Martin Offiah and Alan Hunt outside and the strength of Gary Connolly and Paul Newlove in the centre.

With Alan Tait struggling to overcome the effects of a gashed leg, Stuart Spruce, of Widnes, takes over at full back. He, Ford and the Leeds forward, Steve Molloy, all Great Britain under-21 internationals, will make their senior debuts, with three other new players, Dean Busby, Jason Crichton and Chris Joynt, all likely to be on the substitutes' bench.

With just seven of those who represented Great Britain in last month's World Cup final included, Reilly sees the side as forward-thinking. "We've picked up injuries, but we are looking to the future, although all these players have international experience at some level," he said.

Wales, too, have their injury woes. The wing, Phil Ford, the only survivor from the last match against England eight years ago, described his chances of playing as 50-50. Paul Moriarty, the second-row forward, is also doubtful with knee and shoulder problems.

ENGLAND: S Spruce (Widnes); A Hunt (St Helens); G Connolly (St Helens); P Offiah (Wigan); G Schofield (Leeds); A Ford (Castleford); L Crook (Castleford); L Busby (Salford); J Crichton (Salford); C Joynt (St Helens); D Power (Sheffield Eagles); A Tait (Leeds).



Trail's end: Dallas Cowboys' defenders converge to overwhelm the Phoenix running back, Johnny Johnson (39)

Falcons rushed to heavy defeat

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE Buffalo Bills, Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers won on Sunday to lead the National Football League with records of nine victories and two defeats and the surprising Minnesota Vikings and Pittsburgh Steelers prevailed for the eighth time to lead their divisions.

Earlier this year, the ATP compiled statistics which showed that, on grass, the ball was in play for under four minutes an hour. I doubt very much if there was any more tennis than that in Becker's straight-set victory over the world No. 1 in the final nor in either of the semi-finals. Throughout the week, the tennis was explosive, powerful, technically brilliant and crushingly one-paced.

On a fast indoor surface with big men wielding big rackets, there is no time to defend or counter-attack. Whoever gets the first punch home wins the point. Mostly, that is the server. Nearly a third of the 36 sets were decided on a tie-break. It is grass-court tennis without the greenery, without the sun, without the colour and, often, without the interest.

If you count the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup in Munich next month, which the ATP — not to mention the two finalists here, Becker and Jim Courier — does not, the Croat

could top 1,000, which is a delight for the increasing band of statisticians and a credit to Ivanisevic, the Wimbledon runner-up, but a dubious reflection on the way tennis is progressing.

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The Fellow gamble gathers momentum as course dries

By MICHAEL SEELY

AS A further gamble developed on The Fellow yesterday, drying winds made it more likely that the French-trained King George VI winner and dual Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up will run in Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup.

"A strong, southerly wind has been blowing all day," said Major General David Plank, Newbury's chief executive. "The course dries quickly, and although the ground is still officially soft, it could soon become only good soft."

Heavily-backed during the past week, The Fellow's odds shortened again to 11-2 with Ladbrokes after a single wager of £20,000 each-way at 7-1.

Francois Dounens' Lamorlaye stable is currently in irresistible form.

On Sunday, the Ascot-bound True Brave won a four-year-old hurdle at Auteuil, worth over £50,000, the winner. The trainer also won the listed Grand Prix de Nantes on the Flat with On Y Revenir.

An inspection today will decide whether the seven-year-old will be flown to Berkshire tomorrow. "We want to run as we're keen for him to have a race before the King George," said the trainer yesterday. "Someone has walked the course today. If conditions continue to improve The Fellow is likely to run."

HENNESSY ACCEPTORS - BBC

1.50 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP	(Handicap: £50,000 added prize-money: 3m 21 110yd) (16-day declarations)
1 10110MF COOL GROUND (Whitewhite Man) R Geddes 10-12...	A Kinsella
2 11212-6 TWIN OAKS (J Mardon) M Richards 11-13...	P Scudamore
3 P1135-7 TWIN OAKS (J Mardon) M Pipe 8-11-4...	M McCourt
4 11214-6 CAPTAIN DEBBIE (A Nestor) R Vaughan 11-13...	C Llewellyn
5 05107-2 BROWN WANDERER (W Sturdy) R Henderson 10-14...	R Deverell
6 11114-5 SPARKLING FLAME (Charlotte Harapse) L Henden 8-10-4...	R Deverell
7 11115-2 CAPTAIN DEBBIE (R Vaughan) N Weston-Dales 10-4 (4yo)	R Deverell
8 22517-5 TOPSTAR (P J Murphy) 11-13...	R Deverell
9 10111-4 BISHOPS HALL (C Carroll) 10-12...	R Deverell
10 12111-4 GAMBLING ROYAL (Peach Fools) L Henden 9-10-4...	R Deverell
11 11113-5 GAMBLING ROYAL (Peach Fools) L Henden 9-10-4...	R Deverell
12 22311-1 LATENT TALENT (P J Murphy) 11-13...	R Deverell
13 15112-5 SIBTON ABBEY (D Hubbard) 9-10-4...	R Deverell
14 16112-2 SIBTON ABBEY (D Hubbard) F Murry 7-10-4...	R Deverell
Long handicap: Bishop Hall 9-8; Gamble Royal 9-7; Remondos Joss 9-5; Latent Talent 9-5; Mr Bevan 9-3; Sibton Abbey 8-7...	
BETTING: (Cont'd): 5-1 Jodam, 1-2 Captain Debbie, The Fellow, 8-1 Gambling Royal, 10-1 Latent Talent, Party Politics, 14-1 Cool Ground, 15-1 others.	
1991: CHATAM 7-10-6 P Scudamore (10-1) M Pipe 15yo	

HUNTINGDON

MANDARIN	THUNDERER
1.00 Stratford Lady,	1.00 Hold Court,
1.20 Ashford Copse,	1.20 Nickup,
2.00 Crox Val Mer,	2.00 Nickup,
2.30 Remittance Man,	2.30 Remittance Man,
3.00 Yorkshireman.	3.00 Banker's Gossip.
3.30 Rosgil.	3.30 Always Ready.

RICHARD EVANS: 3.30 All Greek To Me.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)

1.00 HOUGHTON SELLING HURDLE	(21.874: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)
1 PRO-1 HOLD COURT 11 (F Geddes) M Collett 8-11-12...	R Murphy 97
2 D ALDERTON 12 (F Geddes) T Trotter 8-11-11...	M A Rossiter
3 P CRYSTAL HERITAGE 12 (L Joseph) C Murphy 9-11-7...	D Stynes
4 D LOCHMEADEN 12 (G Ryland) R Smith 8-11-7...	S Keleher
5 DO POINT TANDEM 12 (S Mardon) C Murphy 5-11-7...	A S Smith
6 R FAIR 12 (M J Murphy) 11-13...	R Murphy
7 CASH THE TEA 12 (M J Murphy) 11-13...	V Murphy
8 045 OTTER BUSH 12 (P Peacock) G Bann 3-10-4...	P Smith Eccles (7)
9 4 AND ME 28 (D O'Byrne) D Thorne 10-4...	M Brown
10 STRATFORD LADY 12 (Stratford Standard) L Gower 3-10-4...	D Williams (3)
BETTING: 11-4 Hold Court, 7-2 Nickup, 4-1 Tandem, 5-1 Point Tan, 10-1 Full Sign, 14-1 Match The	
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RUGBY UNION

Gloucester awaiting reaction on punch

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GLOUCESTER will wait to hear from Saracens before deciding whether to take further action over the incident during the game last Saturday between the clubs which left Marcus Hannaford, their scrum half, in hospital with a broken cheekbone.

Hannaford was punched from behind by a Saracens forward off the ball in the second half of the first division Courage Clubs Championship match at Kingsholm. He remained in hospital over the weekend, is unlikely to play for six weeks and, since he is self-employed, his livelihood may be affected.

Saracens were meeting last night to discuss the incident, which was seen on BBC 2's *Rugby Special* on Sunday.

"We are waiting to see how Saracens view it," Peter Ford, the Gloucesters chairman, said. "We must also see what Marcus feels about taking it further. He is in business on his own and has a problem there. It's a bit sad. We don't want this sort of thing in rugby, but we don't want to jump in with both feet until we have heard from Saracens."

Barney Richards, the secretary of Saracen, said his committee would take "clear action" after they had considered the incident. "We don't condone things like that, but we like to think we have a good record in our first XV," he said.

Gloucester have a selection problem for their awkward third-round Pilkington Cup visit to Newcastle Gosforth this week.

Two other scrum halves, Lloyd Gardiner and Laurie Beck, have been injured for most of this season, and Julian Davis, recently returned from Bristol, is ineligible for the cup match. Damian Cummins, the centre, took over from Hannaford on Saturday and contributed to a 19-5 win.

The Middlesex disciplinary committee met last night for a final adjudication on the incident involving Simon Dear and Dean Ryan when Harlequins played Wasps in September.

Dear, the Harlequins lock, was left concussed and out of action for a month and Ryan was cited to appear under new

legislation relating to foul play.

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has issued a stern reminder to supporters that their behaviour reflects on the national side. The WRU has looked at a video recording of an incident on Saturday, picked up by television cameras, which involved an exchange between David Campese and a teenager from Brynamman as the player walked off following Australia's defeat of Wales.

The youngster has written a letter, saying he was pushed in the crowd that swarmed onto the field and did not try to trip Campese; the letter will be given to the player before today's game between the Welsh Student Past and Present and the Australians at Bridgend.

Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, also criticised supporters who whistle and jeer when opposition players are kicking at goal. "It is the responsibility of all Welsh rugby followers, young and old, to act courteously, sportingly and with dignity and fairness when they are at club or representative matches," a Union statement said.

□ The Australians have called up reserves from Oxford and Cambridge universities for today's penultimate tour game against Welsh Students: David Dix, the lock now in his second year of post-graduate studies at Cambridge, partners Warwick Waugh in the second row, while Brendan Nasser, the Queensland flanker who is on a social studies course at Oxford, is a replacement.

Stanley Couchman, president of the Rugby Football Union in 1978-9, has died after a long illness. He was 79.

Couchman was a lock forward and played in the war-time match for England/Wales against Scotland/Ireland.

□ Nigel Heslop, the England winger, is considering an approach by Oldham rugby club.

□ The French federation's management committee will meet to discuss the position of the coach, Pierre Berbizer.

Robert Papemborde, the team manager, has asked for Berbizer to be replaced.

Injury victim: McCoist may miss European Cup tie with Marseilles after breaking down in training

McCoist poses problem for Rangers

By RODDY FORSYTH

RANGERS' preparations for their debut in the European Cup semi-final round-robin stage were disrupted yesterday when Ally McCoist broke down in training with a recurrence of a calf injury. He first sustained the injury while playing for Scotland against Portugal last month, but he had been able to continue playing despite its continuing effects.

The prolific forward, who has scored 33 goals in the World Cup, European Cup, Scottish League and Skol Cup this season, is a vital component in Rangers' present run

of good form and his loss would deal a profound blow to their chances of defeating Marseilles at Ibrox tomorrow night.

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, said yesterday: "We are deeply concerned about Ally and we have to rate him as very doubtful to play, although we will see how things stand tomorrow. Stuart McCall will probably be all right to play because his groin trouble is clearing up, but Richard Gough, who has been out with a torn groin muscle, is more difficult to estimate. We will probably have to leave it to him to let us know how he feels about his fitness."

Steven, whose return to Rangers from Marseilles has been dogged by a series of injuries, is keen to play against his former club and he believes that the French champions are in some disarray behind the scenes.

The injuries made it impossible for Smith to indicate the composition of his squad, which must not contain more than three foreign players. In an ideal world, he would probably prefer to field Steven, Hateley and either Steven or Gordon, depending on the former's fitness, but if McCoist is absent, there is a case for playing Mikhailenko.

Steven, whose return to Rangers from Marseilles has been dogged by a series of injuries, is keen to play against his former club and he believes that the French champions are in some disarray behind the scenes.

"Bernard Tapie, the owner of Marseilles, is obsessed with the idea of winning the European Cup and when their league form became questionable a few weeks ago he made a typical decision to change things around," he said. "I had to laugh when I heard that the Marseilles coach, Juan Fernandez, had stepped down because he needed a rest. Fernandez is 38 years old and he's being replaced by Raymond Goethals, who's 70."

When the identity of the last eight in the European Cup was known, the French press rated Rangers and IFK Gothenburg, the Swedish champions, as the easiest draws, especially since Marseilles beat Rangers 2-1 in a pre-season exhibition. According to Steven, Marseilles will be expected to come home with a victory.

"The press will demand it and so will Bernard Tapie, but the players are not foolish," Steven said. "They know that Rangers will be a tougher proposition than when they met in the summer and I fully expect this to be a really exciting game, full of attacking play from both sides."

Platt to undergo knee operation

By RODDY FORSYTH

THE England manager, Graham Taylor, expects David Platt to be playing again before Christmas following a planned knee operation this week. Platt, the £5.5 million Juventus signing, enters a routine operation on a knee this week and that it is expected he will be fit to play within three weeks," Taylor said yesterday.

David Durie, the Tottenham striker found guilty of a misconduct charge by the

World Cup qualifying match against San Marino at Wembley on February 17. "Our understanding from Italy is that David will undergo a routine operation on a knee this week and that it is expected he will be fit to play within three weeks," Taylor said yesterday.

Gordon Durie, the Tottenham striker found guilty of a misconduct charge by the

Football Association, will have his appeal heard on December 16. The Scottish international received a three-match suspension last month after being found guilty of a fitting injury at White Hart Lane on August 19.

Peter Reid is expected to officially extend his relationship with Manchester City later this week by signing a four-year contract.

Platt is confident that Platt will be fully recovered long before England's next

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Pl

England team takes on a new look

SPORT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1992

Newcomers guilty of irregular payments

Barnet are fined £50,000 by League tribunal

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Football League yesterday fined Barnet £50,000 for failing to keep proper financial records and for irregular payments to players. Stan Flashman, the club chairman, who was involved with a scuffle with a photographer from the *Daily Mirror* before and a cameraman from *The Sun* after the hearing, declined to comment as he left the hotel in London.

Stanley Bellier, the club solicitor, said that the fine was excessive and that Barnet would appeal to a Football League tribunal. He described the offences as "technical".

The three-man enquiry — Gordon McKeag, the League president, John Reames and Terry Robinson, the chairmen of Lincoln City and Bury — said that there were "serious breaches" of regulations and "they must be treated as such".

The club has also been warned about its future behaviour. In a written statement, the League said: "That behaviour will be monitored by a further book inspection at the end of April."

This is the latest financial setback this season for the third division club, which is believed to be losing £2,000 a week and whose players threatened to go on strike

RECORD CLUB FINES	
Chelsea	£105,000
Hearts	£75,000
Barnet	£50,000
Birmingham	£50,000*
Arsenal	£50,000*
West United	£50,000
Norwich	£50,000
Southampton	£20,000*
Tottenham	£20,000*
Walsall	£20,000
Wimbledon	£20,000
Arsenal	£20,000
** Fine suspended until end of 1992-3 season.	
£15,000 suspended.	

earlier this month because of an alleged shortfall in their wages.

The club, though, has always had hanging over it the five months of investigation by the Football League which came to a climax yesterday. The commission recommended that the transfer embargo should be lifted as soon as the League received formal confirmation that all players wages have been paid up to date.

The League also decided that the performance bond, which Barnet handed over on entry into the Football League at the beginning of last season to guarantee the payment of players' wages, will be confirmed until after the book inspection.

The commission added that it did accept that there were a number of "mitigating factors", not least that Barnet are "relative newcomers" to the Football League.

On arrival at the Metropole Hotel, Flashman allegedly told Dale Cherry, of the *Daily Mirror*: "Take a picture and I will smash that camera over your head." Flashman then ran towards Cherry and the pair briefly grappled before the Barnet chairman was ushered away by his advisers.

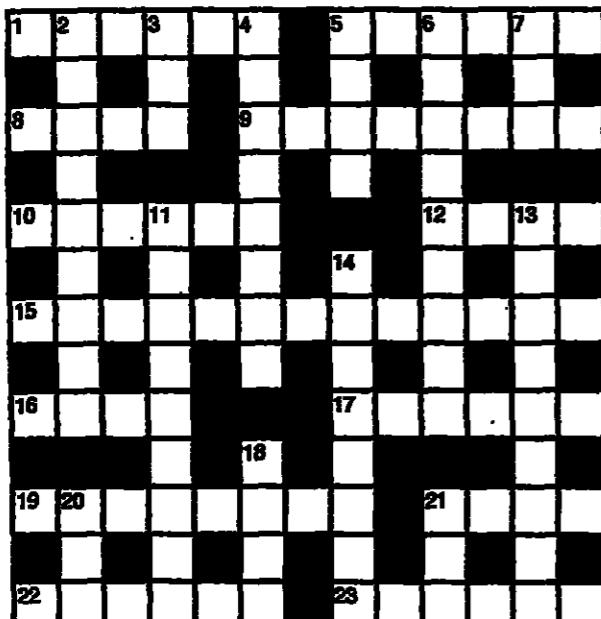
In the second incident, Paul Welford, of *The Sun*, approached Flashman in the hotel car park. Welford said that the Barnet chairman grabbed him and caught the photographer's lip with his arm.

Flashman is no stranger to controversy. Recently, his comments on BBC Radio 5 — "The supporters don't matter as far as I'm concerned; they just pay their entrance fee," he said — were seen by some as outrageous, by others merely typical of a man who had alienated himself from the public and who would never be able to shed the image popularised by the tabloid press.

Yet when, in 1985, Flashman arrived in north London, he was hailed as a saviour. Creditors, including the men from the VAT and Inland Revenue, were paid off as he bought controlling interest in the club, and a team that was going nowhere suddenly had the finance to aim for the top.

Three times in four seasons Barnet finished second in the GM Vauxhall Conference before they achieved their goal of a place in the Football League.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2953



ACROSS
1 Kiss and cuddle (6)
5 Bread flavour seeds (6)
8 Tangle (4)
9 Finicky (8)
10 Fly - fungus (6)
12 Headland (4)
15 Pleasure (13)
16 Lurch (4)
17 Objective (6)
19 Choke (8)
21 Franchise (4)
22 Good look (6)
23 Quick (6)

DOWN
2 Animal collection (9)
3 Porridge grass (3)
4 Manacle (8)
5 Lament (4)
6 Lawyer (9)
7 Crew (3)
11 Run through (6,3)
13 Guarded (9)
14 Disperses (8)
18 And others (2,2)
20 Dry fodder grass (3)
21 Orkney bay (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2952
ACROSS: 1 Sequestration 8 Pride 9 Oxonian 10 How
11 Ratio 12 Earshot 14 Bansen 16 Castle
20 Nacelle 23 Taxed 24 Lye 25 Airdrop 26 Macon
27 Transmittable
DOWN: 1 Superabundant 2 Quieten 3 Eyehole
4 Trowel 5 Amour 6 Irish 7 Non attendance
13 Sot 15 Sud 17 Attempt 18 Taxicab 19 Delphi
21 Curia 22 Lords

WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Popovic - Kostic, Novi Sad 1992. White has deliberately allowed his king to be placed in an awkward position on f1, because he hoped that leaving the king's rook on the open h-file would prove more important. His next move proved this judgement to be good. What did he play?

Solution on page 36

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for Amiga or PC, send £2.50 to CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

SLANG
HARRY TATE
a. Incompetent or disorderly
b. All in apple-pie order
c. Modern and trendy
MOSSBACK
a. A rolling stone
b. Extremely conservative
Answers on page 36



Krabbe targets loophole with appeal

By JOHN GOODBODY

KATRIN Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, hopes once again to use a loophole in the rules of the German Athletics Federation (DLV) when she appeals in January against her four-year suspension.

Peter Woessner, the German sprinter's lawyer, said yesterday that the DLV had still failed to make its statutes legally watertight by including out-of-competition drug-testing procedures. It was this inadequacy that allowed Krabbe, and her fellow-Germans, Grit Breuer and Silke Müller, to have their original four-year suspensions lifted in June for allegedly manipulating urine samples.

was banned in out-of-competition testing in July and several lawyers believe action against the athletes would be retrospective legislation.

Woessner said: "The ban must be reduced to something less than four years. The DLV has done nothing about changing its statutes. Its board has no legal right to ban athletes for drug offences in this way."

He said the DLV would be able to ban the competitors only on the grounds that they had acted in an "unsporting fashion". Woessner added: "A maximum of two years would be applicable. More than that is unlikely to get through the German courts."

RUGBY UNION 38

Gloucester wait for reaction on punch

McRae leaves rally rivals in his wake

By STEPHEN SLATER

COLIN McRae powered through the forests of north Wales yesterday to return to Chester with a slender lead in the Lombard RAC Rally.

To the delight and occasional alarm of British rallying supporters, McRae attacked the ten treacherous stages on the second day in spectacular style, cutting corners and finishing his Subaru Legacy to set five fastest stage times and overhaul the Toyota of Carlos Sainz in a dramatic battle at the head of the field.

McRae, 24, from Scotland, had left Chester at 5 o'clock yesterday morning in third place, 25 seconds behind Sainz and five seconds behind the Ford Sierra Cosworth of Miki Biasion. Almost immediately he was on the attack, moving ahead of Biasion on the first special stage, then setting the fastest times on the Myherin and Hafran stages to reduce the Spaniard's lead to just 12 seconds.

Sainz fought back as the cars entered the rally's thirteenth stage, at Pemperthog. A storming drive in torrential rain saw Sainz extend his lead by two seconds, but as the car started the two 15-mile sections in the Dyfi Forest, one of the fastest and most spectacular rallying locations in the world, McRae stepped up a gear.

Even by the standards of present-day world championship rally cars, McRae's Subaru made an exhilarating sight as it blasted down the stage to the cheers of his supporters, many of whom had been forced to walk more than five miles in atrocious weather. The car was visibly faster than the opposition, and the gruff exhaust note of the turbocharged flat-four engine echoed around the valley.

McRae never let up, sliding into the final right-hand corner at over 80mph with the offside front wheel hanging

LEADING POSITIONS after 19th stage: 1 C McRae and D Ringer (GB, Subaru), 29.5min 48sec; 2 C Sainz and L Moya (Sp, Toyota), 29.59; 3 D Biasion and J Pitron (Fr, Lancia), 23.45; 5 M Allen and J Rikards (Fin, Toyota), 23.53; 6 A Vatanen and M Berglund (Fin, Subaru), 23.54; 7 M Biasion and J Rikards (Fin, Ford), 23.55; 8 M Wilson and S Thomas (GB, Ford), 23.75; 9 S Blomqvist and B Nilsson (Fin, Toyota), 23.84; 10 R Edmondson and S Pernante (Spa, Mitsubishi), 23.85. **WHERE TO WATCH:** 0700: Depart Chester, 1000: Special stages 20 and 21.

GLENCOE: First two northern forest stages, six miles southwest of Ambleside, 3216ft. Special stage 22: Comb Most accessible of the Lake District stages, four miles west of Glenridding, 3228ft. Special stage 23: Wythop, first Lake District stage, 1402ft. Special stage 24: Kestopoe. The first of the forest stages, covered almost entirely by trees. **WELCHFOREST:** Special stage 25: Welchforest glen, five miles west of Ballymena, 1700ft. Special stage 26: Glendalough, 1754ft. Special stage 27: Penderhaw. Longest stage, three miles west of Belfast, 1859ft. Special stage 28: Shanbrackhead, six miles west of Westport, 2007ft. Overnight halt, Castle.

AFTER DRINKING
A BOTTLE OF THE SINGLETON,
THE JUDGES WERE SINGING ITS PRAISES.



The Singleton owes its richer, fuller character to the unique way it is matured; first in oak casks, then in the finest of sherry casks.

'Wonderfully smooth! A velvety, nutty character.' A unique taste and delicate aroma. These were just some of the comments the judges of the Pot Still of Glasgow Trophy made about it.

But then, The Singleton has long been favoured by the more discerning malt drinker.

THE SINGLETON
of
AUCHROISK

DIVORCE
Mandy for £58
LAWYERS

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